

[Making sure that Maths Rockx!](#)

The other week, I wrote a spur of the moment, heartfelt post about how Luke, my eldest son, was having a really hard time at school. It wasn't any one thing that was causing it, it was a combination of factors, but he had become so nervous about school (and especially his Times Tables tests each week) that he began making himself poorly. He wasn't eating his breakfast in the morning, he was giving himself tummy ache through nerves and he was also coming home 'sick' from school when in fact he was just worried. It was heartbreaking to see, especially when he is such a happy go lucky lad at home.

[You can read my post, 'Under Pressure', here.](#)

The response both me and Luke received from that post was overwhelming. We had messages from people all over the world saying, sadly, that they could relate to it, we had messages of support and kindness and we also had a message from a lovely lady called Jo who has made a Times Tables app called, Maths Rockx, to see if we would like to try it for free because she felt so sad for Luke. I cried, numerous times, because I couldn't believe how lovely people had been and Jo just seemed to really understand how me and Luke were feeling.

She truly was our Times Tables Knight in shining armour!

[Maths Rockx](#) is an app to help kids learn their times tables in a fun and engaging way.

It was created by a wonderful woman called Jo, who lives in Australia.

Jo was a Primary School teacher, as well as a mum, and she could see that there were a few issues surrounding Maths and, more specifically, times tables. Some kids weren't learning them at all, some children couldn't cope with learning them in an old fashioned and rigid manner so began to fall behind and some just found it boring. So, she decided to do something about it and that is how Maths Rockx was born!

Here are a few words from Jo about Maths Rockx and how it came to be...

I was a primary school teacher for 15 years. During my career I was finding more often than not, children didn't know their times tables any more – a fundamental skill was slipping through the cracks.

So, I would teach my kids their tables to funky beats and eventually started singing them to rock songs. It always worked, really, REALLY well. The results were consistent, the children knew their table facts quickly and had a blast in the process.

In our technology based society, the App platform is the perfect way for all children, educators and parents to have access to a teaching strategy that works – and it's so much fun!

☐When you see your children finally get it – that's the best part.

My passion for this project is enormous. Every child needs this skill and Maths Rockx is the perfect teacher.

See what Maths Rockx is all about!

How happy do those kids look?!

And they're doing Times Tables!

(I don't think I ever looked that happy doing times tables...)

What did we think of Maths Rockx and has it helped Luke?

In short, yes, it has helped Luke a HUGE amount and he is improving all the time with regards to his Times Tables.

He still has his tricky ones, 6's, 7's and 8's but it's not a complete whitewash of nerves and panic like it was before and now he actually doesn't mind learning them, unlike before when he would crumble before my eyes and start sobbing before we had even begun.

Every day when Luke gets in from school, we make sure we sit down and do some times tables work together and every session starts with him listening to the Maths Rockx songs as a 'warm up' to get his brain in gear. He has certain favourite songs, 'Happy' by Pharell and 'You don't know you're beautiful' by One Direction and genuinely enjoys listening and singing along. I think the fact the app uses popular, and cool, songs is a real bonus. It means the kids can relate to the songs and

they find them great fun to sing along to.

Luke didn't want me to film him singing along to the songs because he gets really nervous, but he told me I could do it one time just for you guys. See, I told you he was a good lad...

1. [Luke Maths Rockx](#)

If you're a mother at your wits end with how to get your child to learn their tables, a teacher who is looking for a new way to teach times tables to your class in a fun and engaging way, or a friend who knows someone who is struggling with learning their tables, do share this post with them. I'm not doing it for likes and shares, I genuinely want people to know about this wonderful app and to be able to give it a go for themselves.

[You can buy the app or find out more about it, here.](#)

It's been a revelation for me.

It's been life changing for Luke.



**Thank you again to Jo for
being so kind.**

**You've helped a little boy
find his childhood again.**

Spot at the Farm – New App Review

After being given the opportunity to review the new Spot 'Lift the flap' Book, "Spot goes on Holiday", the other week ([you can read my book review here](#)), we were also given the chance to review a new app called, Spot at the Farm.

This slideshow requires JavaScript.

(Images are screenshots from the Spot at the Farm app)

As iPad/iPhone owners, I downloaded this via the App Store.

It's priced at £2.99, so not the cheapest of kids Apps out there, but I really do think it is worth the cost. No in-app purchases are going to spring up and give you a nasty shock when your toddler has figured out how to buy £200 worth of 'extras' put it that way ☐

The app is easy to use and my 2 year old has had so much fun playing it (when he manages to get a look in on the iPad that is – it's tough being the littlest sometimes).

This app is in the form of a story book of sorts. There is no narration but you scroll across the iPad, like you would a book, to get onto the next screen. Each screen you come to has an activity or interaction for your child to investigate.

The tasks vary from putting an engine in a tractor to make it go, pumping up the tyres on a tractor, planting seeds, harvesting vegetables, feeding animals, shearing sheep and even a pig oink choir! And that's just some of the activities available within the app. It's a really fantastic little game which teaches children about the world around them whilst they're having fun. What more could you ask for?

I loved sitting with my toddler, narrating to him as he was doing things. He spent a good five minutes on one page playing peek-a-boo with a monkey who hides in a tree! The simple things are always the best, he was in absolute hysterics about it!

The drawings mimic those of the much loved ones in the Spot books. They're colourful, friendly, engaging and familiar.

We would highly recommend the Spot at the Farm app to any children aged between 1.5 and 5 years old (truth be told, even my 6 year old has had a sneaky play when he didn't think anyone could see him). I'm certain it would keep little ones entertained for a good while, whilst on a long journey for example. It certainly did keep my tiny tot amused!

[You can buy the Spot at the Farm app here.](#)





Disclosure: I was sent a voucher code for the Spot at the Farm app in return for this review. All words, thoughts and opinions are my own.