

14 Ways to Practice Math Facts with your child

1. **Dice & Domino Equations-** Dice Equations: Give your child two dice to roll and make an addition or multiplication problem with the numbers on the dice. Domino Equations: Put several dominoes in a brown lunch sack. Have your child pull a domino out of the bag and make an equation from the numbers on either side of the domino. You may choose to have your child write the equations on a piece of paper so you can check them later. 
2. **Math War-** Remove the face cards from a regular deck of playing cards. Shuffle the cards and place them face down between two or more players. Each player chooses two cards and adds or multiplies the numbers on the cards. The player with the highest answer takes all of the cards. If the numbers are the same, both players choose two more cards and the player with the highest answer takes all the cards.
3. **Magnetic Number Facts-** Supply your child with a package of magnetic numbers and a cookie sheet. Call out a math fact and have your child replicate the math fact on the cookie sheet with the numbers. To make homework more interesting, have your child do math homework problems using the magnetic numbers.
4. **Mathematical "I Spy"-** While driving down the road, have your child find numbers on signs, storefronts and vehicle tags. Make addition, subtraction or multiplication problems with the numbers.
5. **Equation Concentration-** Create a Math Memory game with twenty 3"x5" cards. Write equations on ten index cards. On the other ten cards, write the corresponding answers to the questions. Shuffle and place the cards face down on the playing surface. The first player chooses two cards. If they match, he keeps both cards and chooses again. If they do not match, then he puts the cards back and the next player chooses. Play continues until all of the cards are chosen. The player with the most cards wins.
6. **EGG-celent Equations-** Recycle a used egg carton and two beans for this basic fact review. Write the numbers 1-12 in the bottom of each egg compartment. Get two beans and place them inside the egg carton. Shake the closed carton and have the child make an addition or multiplication equation from the numbers on which the beans land.
7. **Beach Ball Math-** With a black marker, draw lines on a beach ball. Separate each colored section into two or three more sections. In each section, write a number 0-10. Throw the ball to your child. When he catches the ball, have him look at the number written in the section where his thumbs landed. He then adds, subtracts or multiplies those two numbers.

Material taken from:

<http://www.glc.k12.ga.us/passwd/trc/ttools/attach/parent/10ways/TenWaysMathFacts.doc>

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8. *Grocery Math Game*- While shopping in the grocery store, have your child solve math problems by comparing the labels on different products. For example: How much more sodium does this soup have than that soup? How many more fat grams are in these cookies than those cookies?
9. *Baseball Card Comparison*- Collect several baseball cards and ask your child questions based on the information for each player. For example: How many more runs did one player have than another? What was the difference in their ERA's?
10. *Newspaper Math*- Have your child look through a newspaper and cut out as many numbers as she can find. Give her a piece of blank paper and have her choose two numbers. Glue the numbers onto the blank page, insert an addition, subtraction, multiplication or division sign in the middle of them, and solve. 
11. Draw a picture to go with a times table that gives you trouble. You can draw a real example of the times table -- a dozen eggs for $6 \times 2 = 12$, a checkerboard for $8 \times 8 = 64$. You could draw two football players wearing jersey number 7 for the 49ers to show that 7×7 is 49. Have one version of this drawing that has the times table and the answer on it, and trace it and say it as you look at the picture. Then just look at the picture and try to remember the times table that goes with it. And finally, look at just the times table, and remember the picture and the answer that goes with it. Your 'hint' for your flashcard can be the picture without the answer.
12. Record math facts on a tape recorder; then play the tape, trying to give the correct response before you hear it on the tape.
13. *Story Mnemonics* -Make up a sentence with the times table numbers in it, and a picture to go with it. For instance, "Dinner for 6 at 7 on 42nd Street." You can act out calling this reservation in to the restaurant, try it in different voices, draw different pictures (what does 42nd street look like, anyway?) -- have fun with it!
14. Flashcards are the "old standard" way to learn the times tables, and may work for you, especially if you follow the guidelines and tackle a few at a time. You can also make flashcards with hints on one side of the back and fold that part over if you need help to remember an answer. After you do that, put it back in the deck, and practice it until you don't need the hint any more.

Start with a small deck and only add a few cards at a time. As the deck gets bigger, you'll want to sort them into three piles as you go over them: one stack for the ones you missed (hopefully a *small* stack). The next stack is for the ones you got -- but it took a little while, and one stack for the ones you knew right away. When you're doing other work, you can grab the deck you know and practice it in less than a minute; or practice the 'slow' deck once or twice to get it faster.

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