

## Making Flashcards

### Math fact cards

1. Your child will be bringing home sets of the basic facts he's working. Here's how to get more out of them.
2. Have him trace the "fact family" number in one color with a crayon. If he's working on the +5s he would trace all the +5s in the same color. (Be sure it is crayon because he needs the waxy texture for practice.)
3. Help him identify the pattern in the cards. Then trace all numbers in that pattern in the same color. For example, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 are part of a pattern. They should be in a different color from the 5s. Counting by 5s is a pattern, too—a different color is needed for that pattern. Each flashcard will usually have 3 different colors. This will help to spotlight each number.
4. Then, repeat to add two more crayon tracings to each number using the original color so there will be 3 coats of wax on each problem. Then your child can trace the numbers with his finger, feeling the wax on the number as he traces.
5. Cut the cards apart. Be sure to cut the little notch off the corner. This will help you keep all the cards facing in the same direction quickly and easily.
6. Rubber band the set together and decide how you are going to store the cards. You may end up with a huge collection, and you want to be able to find what you're looking for!
7. See how many games you and your child can invent to practice the math facts. Let him know if you had trouble learning your math facts, and what you did to finally master them.



## Fun Ways to Study Math Facts

Study the cards intensely for 1 minute.

Look at the problem and the answer.

Read it out loud to yourself.

Close your eyes and picture the problem and answer written on a white board in your mind.

Color your mind picture with zany colors.

Read the problem and answer from your mind.

Open your eyes and see if you were correct.

Go on to the next card.

After one or two minutes, see if you can “read” all of the flashcards off the picture in your mind.

Practice your math facts in the car.

Test your mom and dad. Test your brothers and sisters. Have them test you.

Look for numbers, as you drive along, that match the math facts you are learning, or ones you’ve already learned.

Tell your mom, dad, brother, or sister to surprise test you during the day, or during dinner, or during a TV show.

Practice your math facts in bed, before you go to sleep.

Use a squeeze bottle and write your math facts on the side of your house, using plain water.

Write them with chalk in a hopscotch court, and read or answer them before jumping into the square.

Write them with chalk in a four square court and read or answer them as the ball bounces in each court. (You may have to catch the ball and hold it to do this, but you may get fast enough to hit the ball as you answer!)

Write them on large pieces of paper and tape them to your garage door. (Ask your parents’ permission first.) Throw a ball at a problem and shout out the answer.

Use magnetic numbers on the refrigerator or on a cookie sheet to make your facts.

Make up jump rope jingles for your facts and practice them as you jump rope.

Make up songs for your math facts and sing them in the shower.

Use an egg carton to make a game. Write the numbers of your math fact problems in the bottom of each section in the egg carton. Put two markers (beans, little blocks, peanuts, cereal) in the egg carton and close the lid. Shake it up, and open it. Tell the answer to the two numbers covered with your markers. You may get some surprise problems this way!

Make up some new games of your own to practice your math facts. Teach them to someone else. What do they think of your games?