



CHAPTER 9

Get the facts

In math, when focusing on relationships, there are fewer facts to remember.

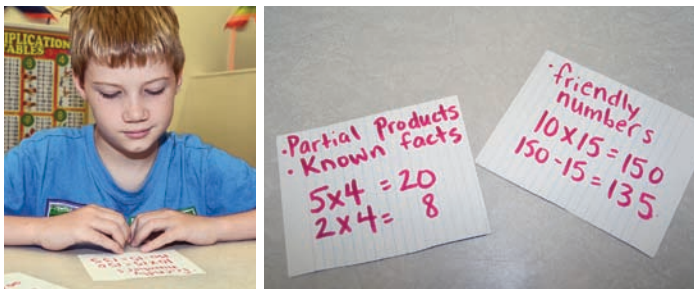
The best way to ensure your child knows all the facts is to support him/her in learning the mental strategies taught in class with a focus on relationships.

Make it easy by using what you know

Start by helping your child determine just how many facts he/she already knows. For example, most students know how to add in combinations of ten, and how to add 1 or 2 to a number.

Make sure your child realizes that when he/she is adding or multiplying, it doesn't matter what order the numbers are in.

If you know 3×4 , you know 4×3 . This reduces the number of facts to learn by half.

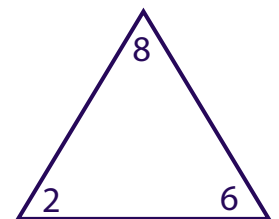


For more challenging facts, encourage your child to connect to a fact he/she already knows. For example, if your child knows $8 + 8 = 16$, ask him/her to think about how he/she could use that to figure out $8 + 9$ ($8 + 8 + 1 \text{ more} = 17$).

This strategy also works for multiplication. If your child knows 2×6 , he/she can use this to help him/her figure out 3×6 (3×6 is 2×6 plus one more group of 6; $12 + 6 = 18$)

Connect the operations

Children often feel more comfortable with addition than subtraction, or with multiplication than division. Triangle flash cards are a great way to help your child make the connection between the operations. This will make it easier to learn the facts.



Put your finger over the 8 and ask "What is $2 + 6$?" Then, put your finger over the 2 and ask "What is $8 - 6$?"

Create strategy flash cards

Rather than trying to learn all the facts at once, have your child select five facts that he/she would like to learn. Record each fact on a slip of paper. On the back, have your child record the strategy he/she will use to help learn that fact. When your child takes time to practice, he/she can focus on this small set of facts. As he/she learns each one, more strategy flash cards can be created.

Flash card question:

$$9 \times 5 =$$

Strategic answer:

I know 10×5 is 50
so I took one 5 away
to get 45.
 $5 \times 5 = 25$ and $4 \times 5 = 20$
so $25 + 20 = 45$