



Regular review helps your child strengthen math skills

Success in math is built on mastering basic skills. Your child's chances of acing more math tests can improve if you do these things:

- Regularly quiz your child on basic math facts: 2×9 , $12 - 4$, $6 + 6$, etc. Together, make a set of flash cards with the math facts he needs to know. Use them to quiz him—at the breakfast table, in the car or while you wait at the doctor's office. Your child has mastered a math fact when he can give the correct answer in less than three seconds.
- Resist telling your child the answers. He will learn better if you show him how to find them instead. For instance, if he doesn't know what 3×5 is, have him draw three parallel horizontal lines. Cross them with five vertical lines. Then have him count the intersections to get the answer.
- Have your child practice writing numbers neatly. One quarter of the math errors students make are due to messy number writing. Your child should make sure his numbers are neatly lined up, too.
- Encourage your child to work more problems than the teacher assigns. Good math skills come with practice.
- Challenge your child to do math "in his head." See if he can figure out a problem without using pencil and paper or a calculator.

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