

Basic Facts Strategies

Rather than always using “counting on” or “counting back,” the following strategies are being discussed and used in class to improve memorization. Additional at-home practice will help your child improve his/her timed test scores. It is best to practice one strategy at a time, then mix together as each one is mastered. You may choose to skip any or all of these ideas based on your child’s ability and learning style. (Many of these are very simple and already being used, but I wanted to include all of the strategies.)

Addition

Strategy: **+0**

Trick: Any number plus 0 equals that number.

Examples:

2	0
$\begin{array}{r} + 0 \\ \hline 2 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} + 2 \\ \hline 2 \end{array}$

Strategy: **+1**

Trick: Any number plus 1 equals the next higher number.

Examples:

3	1
$\begin{array}{r} + 1 \\ \hline 4 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} + 3 \\ \hline 4 \end{array}$

Strategy: **Count by 2**

Trick: Any number plus 2 equals the next number counting by 2's. (starting at 0 = 2, 4, 6, 8, etc.) (starting at 1 = 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, etc.) Practice counting first, then work on the problems.

Examples:

6	2
$\begin{array}{r} + 2 \\ \hline 8 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} + 3 \\ \hline 5 \end{array}$

Strategy: **Doubles**

Trick: When both addends are the same number, the answer is always even.

Examples:

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ + 2 \\ \hline 4 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ + 3 \\ \hline 6 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ + 4 \\ \hline 8 \end{array}$$

Strategy: **+ Magic 9**

Trick: Look at the number with 9. Subtract 1 from that number. Then put a 1 in front of that number.

Examples:

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ + 9 \\ \hline 13 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} 9 \\ + 7 \\ \hline 16 \end{array}$$

Strategy: **Doubles +1**

Trick: When you have two consecutive numbers, double the smaller one, then add 1.

Examples:

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ + 5 \\ \hline 9 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} 8 \\ + 7 \\ \hline 15 \end{array}$$

Strategy: **In Between**

Trick: If there is a number between the two addends, double that number.

Examples:

$$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ + 5 \\ \hline 8 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} 7 \\ + 5 \\ \hline 12 \end{array}$$

Strategy: **Memorize**

There are 2 facts with the sum of 10 or less that do not have a trick. (6 + 3 and 7 + 3) - Don't forget to reverse.

There are 4 facts with the sum greater than 10 that do not have a trick. (8 + 3, 7 + 4, 8 + 4, 8 + 5)

Subtraction

Strategy: **-0**

Trick: Any number minus 0 equals that number.

Examples:

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ - 0 \\ \hline 2 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} 7 \\ - 0 \\ \hline 7 \end{array}$$

Strategy: **-1**

Trick: Any number minus 1 equals the next lower number.

Examples

$$\begin{array}{r} 13 \\ - 1 \\ \hline 12 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} 5 \\ - 1 \\ \hline 4 \end{array}$$

Strategy: **Friends**

Trick: If the top number is right next to the bottom number on the number line, then the numbers are friends. "Friends are #1"

Examples:

$$\begin{array}{r} 10 \\ - 9 \\ \hline 1 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} 15 \\ - 14 \\ \hline 1 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ - 2 \\ \hline 1 \end{array}$$

Strategy: **Doubles**

Trick: When children know their addition doubles, they can recognize the doubling number for even top numbers. To practice, make several cards with the same top number and ask if the bottom number is its double.

Examples:

$$\begin{array}{r} 12 \\ - 6 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

yes

$$\begin{array}{r} 12 \\ - 7 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

no

$$\begin{array}{r} 12 \\ - 8 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

no

Strategy: **- Magic 9**

Trick: If you are **subtracting 9**, look at the top number. Add those numbers together for the answer.

Examples:

$$\begin{array}{r} 13 \\ - 9 \\ \hline 4 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} 17 \\ - 9 \\ \hline 8 \end{array}$$

Strategy: **Fabulous 5**

Trick: If 5 is being subtracted from a number greater than 9 add the ones column.

Examples:

$$\begin{array}{r} 13 \\ - 5 \\ \hline 8 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} 11 \\ - 5 \\ \hline 6 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} 16 \\ - 5 \\ \hline 11 \end{array}$$

Strategy: **Neighbors**

Trick: If the top number is between 10-18, and the bottom number is its next-door neighbor, then the answer is 9.

Examples:

$$\begin{array}{r} 10 \\ - 1 \\ \hline 9 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} 15 \\ - 6 \\ \hline 9 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} 18 \\ - 9 \\ \hline 9 \end{array}$$

Strategy: **Memorize**

Subtraction has many facts that need to be memorized.
(7-2, 8-2, 9-2, 10-2, 10-3, 11-3, 11-4 and 12-4)