

Regular review helps elementary schoolers master 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. With your child, make a set of homemade flash cards with the math facts he needs to know. You can use these to quiz your child--at the breakfast table, in the car or while you wait at the doctor's office. He has mastered a math fact when he can answer in fewer than three seconds.
- Resist telling your child the answers. Your child will learn better if you show him how to find the answer. 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 is due to messy number writing. Your child should make sure the 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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