

Flash Facts

You may want to save this information

It's that time in second grade when we begin working very hard on fact families. We've begun one minute timed drills (addition and subtraction Flash Facts) to support the children's quest for mastery of the basic fact families before third grade. Some children have already passed some one minute flash fact drills. These children will probably earn their first "Flash Fact" certificate very quickly, while for others it may take a lot of time and hard work. The important thing is that each child is doing their PERSONAL BEST!

There will be three levels of accomplishment. The first level is mastery of all the Fact Families (7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18). That means your child was able to complete a one minute flash fact sheet for each fact family. The second level of mastery is completing a sheet with problems from all the families on it. The third level means your child can do each flash fact family in thirty seconds versus one minute. Certificates will be awarded for each level.

In order to do a personal best your child will need your support. It will be up to you to provide a little study time each day so there is positive progression through the fact families.

For some children parents should assist in the cutting out of the "Thumbkin" flash cards and the flash fact triangle flash cards. Using the Thumbkin flash cards, as an introductory activity, some children should put all the families within the number group in order. For example, if your child is studying the 9's Flash Facts then each day they should mix up all the 9's flash cards and then put them in order: $1+8$, $8+1$, $9-8$, $9-1$; $2+7$, $7+2$, $9-2$, $9-7$; $3+6$, $6+3$, $9-3$, $9-6$; $4+5$, $5+4$, $9-5$, $9-4$. Next, they should make them into a deck keeping them in that family order and then flip through them with a thumb over the answer trying for recall. If the answer isn't known then their thumb should be lifted off to view the answer for immediate feedback. At this point in your child's study of numbers they should begin using associations versus fingers that count out the answer. As mastery is achieved with each 9's family in that given order then your child should mix a couple of the 9's families together and see if mastery is achieved. If your child does well then mix another 9's family into the first two, and so on... When your child feels they know the facts then go ahead and use the Fact Triangle flash cards as extra practice. Finally use the one minute tests that they are allowed to take home to check for mastery. DO NOT USE the one minute tests as the only means of studying. Study the Flash Fact Family as indicated above—making associations.

I've attached the "Thumbkin" Flash Facts, Fact Triangle Flash cards and a sample of one minute drills for the Fact Family that your child is currently on. Make copies of the one minute drills if you wish before cutting it apart. There are four one minute drills per sheet for four attempts. However, do not time your child until the two of you have worked together with the Flash Cards, both sorting and flashing.

Thanks for your support,

