

Helping at Home with Basic Facts

Children need to know addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts to 10. That means every combination to $10 + 10$, $20 - 10$, 10×10 , and $100 \div 10$. Our expectation is that children will get 95% of these correct, by the **end of year 6**. They have 4 minutes to answer each set of 63 questions.

If your child is younger than year 6, we want to see them develop their known facts: start with addition, then subtraction, then multiplication and lastly division. As a guide, to be on track to meet expectation at the **end of year 5**, children would need to be scoring 90% in addition and subtraction and 60% in multiplication and division.

Examples from our tests are:

Add	Multiply	Subtract	Divide
$5 + 9 =$	$7 \times 7 =$	$10 - 3 =$	$28 \div 4 =$
$10 + 3 =$	$7 \times 9 =$	$8 - 1 =$	$10 \div 5 =$
$5 + 1 =$	$6 \times 6 =$	$7 - 5 =$	$40 \div 8 =$
$3 + 9 =$	$6 \times 9 =$	$8 - 0 =$	$72 \div 9 =$
$4 + 8 =$	$8 \times 9 =$	$6 - 1 =$	$30 \div 5 =$
$3 + 0 =$	$9 \times 1 =$	$7 - 2 =$	$48 \div 6 =$
$3 + 3 =$	$8 \times 8 =$	$6 - 0 =$	$42 \div 7 =$

Division facts are the hardest. Teach children how to divide by turning the equation around, then multiplying eg $48 \div 6 = 8$ can be worked out by multiplying $6 \times \square = 48$

There are 63 facts in each test which includes all the reversals eg $5 \times 2 =$ and $2 \times 5 =$

In multiplication start with 1x, then 10x, 2x, 5x Move on to 4x, 3x, 6x, 7x, 8x and lastly 9x

Practice basic facts often. It's not much use doing a whole lot for the first 2 nights, then nothing for the next week. Learning basic facts takes time and it takes LOTS of practice.

There is nothing wrong with learning basic facts by 'chanting' or rote learning, especially multiplication tables.

Find fun ways to learn basic facts:

- learn them in the car. Look at number plates and multiply the first 2 numbers, or subtract the lowest number from the highest
- use playing cards: add the numbers together
- Cards and board games with 2 dice are good. Write the facts on cards with answers on the back. Sort into 2 piles of known and unknown.
- Teach the patterns and connections, for example, "If I know 5×5 , then I must know 5×6 , because it's just 5 more."

Children will eventually learn their basic facts off by heart and at speed – then it will become 'knowledge' and they won't have to stop and think about the answer to each basic fact.

If you need any more suggestions about how to help your children with learning their basic facts, please ask your child's teacher. They will be able to help you.

If children don't learn their basic facts, they will really struggle to move past stage 6 in maths, that is the benchmark for the end of year 6. Maths for them in years 7 and 8 will be a struggle.