Accelerated Individualized Mastery

Addition and Subtraction

Fast Fact Check-Ins

Overview

These eight activities are meant to be quick check-ins that are both easy to set up and easy to implement into your daily routine or on the go. They should primarily be used for Facts Known and can occur regularly throughout your day.

Additionally, it may be appropriate to use these activities to help a student commit a particular fact to memory that they are having difficulty recalling. In these cases, the activity should not be timed for practice until the student can proficiently recall the fact.

NOTE: Have your student select the activity they prefer to do. This helps them take ownership of their learning and increases engagement.

F1 Facts-in-a-Box (or Bag)

Materials

- ✓ empty tissue box or paper bag
- ✓ selected Fact Check Cards

1. Place several facts on slips of paper inside an empty tissue box or paper bag.
2. Throughout the day, randomly select one to three fact slips.
3. If the fact is answered correctly, hang it on the refrigerator or on a bulletin board.
4. If the fact is answered incorrectly, place it back in the box or bag to practice again.
5. Repeat up to five times a day.

F2 Three and You're Free

1. Stop your student during transitions between activities throughout the day. For instance, if your student says, "I am going outside," stop them and say, "Give me three and you're free!"
2. Ask your student up to three Facts Not Yet Known.
3. Celebrate correct and incorrect answers.
4. Try again during another transition later in the day.

F3 Password for the Day

1. Select a math fact that your student is having particular difficulty recalling.
2. Tell your student that the password for the day is that math fact! They are to address you or get your attention by saying the fact and the correct answer. For example, each time they would normally say your name or ask for something they would say the math fact and its answer first (e.g., "seven plus eight equals fifteen").
3. If at any time they give the incorrect answer, provide encouragement and then the correct answer.
4. Ask them to repeat the fact with the correct answer.

F4 Fact Alarm

Materials

- ✓ phone, tablet, or alarm clock

Set Up

Set several alarms for different times throughout the day on a phone, tablet, or alarm clock.

1. Ask your student a math fact when the alarm goes off. They must say the fact and the answer aloud.
2. Repeat throughout the day at different intervals.

Variation

Add another fact the next day and have your student say that math fact and the one from the previous day.

F5 Rock, Paper, Scissors, Facts

1. Select two or three math facts to practice.
2. Play a round of rock paper scissors. The loser decides which fact needs to be answered.
3. Repeat two or three times throughout a day.

F6 Colossal Calculator

Materials

Indoors:

- ✓ old sheet or an inexpensive shower curtain
- ✓ permanent markers

Outdoors:

- ✓ sidewalk chalk

Note: Incorporating large muscle movement with small muscle movement helps commit math facts to long term memory. This can be helpful, particularly for older children who consider themselves "stuck" on learning certain facts.

1. Draw a "colossal calculator" with the digits 0–9 and the math symbols: +, −, ×, ÷, and =.
2. Ask your student a Fact Not Yet Known. For example, "Seven plus eight?"
3. Have your student input the problem on the calculator by saying and stepping on the appropriate digits and symbols (e.g., 7 + 8 = ?).
4. Have your student "calculate" the answer by saying and stepping on the appropriate digits for the answer (e.g., 15).
5. Repeat with another Fact Not Yet Known.
6. Keep sessions short. Only practice one to three different Facts Not Yet Known in a single session.

F7 Traffic Light Math

Use this technique when you are completely stopped at a traffic signal.

1. When the light is red, ask your student two or three math facts. For example, say, "What is 6 + 3? 8 + 4?"
2. Stop asking as soon as the light turns green.
3. Cheer for the math facts they answered correctly. Provide encouragement for those they answered incorrectly and try again at the next light.

F8 Lights Out

1. Select three or four math facts.
2. Ask your student these math facts immediately before going to sleep for the night to assist with transfer from short-term memory.
3. Celebrate correct and incorrect answers.
4. Try again the next evening.