

# A Challenge from Teachers and Parents. For Math Facts Coaches, Teachers, and Parents.

A challenge is a simple way for parents to encourage their children to study math facts at home.

A challenge is better than nagging or forcing.

A challenge says to children, "Can you do this? Prove it!"

Children then have an opportunity to prove something, to their parents, and to themselves.

Parents are involved in a supportive role. It's up to children to study.

When parents are interested and involved, children are more successful.

- 1) Complete the Teacher Challenge on the page, *Challenge Children to Study Math Facts on their Own*. Send home. There are two challenges to choose from. One uses The Math Facts Mad Dash. The other does not.
- 2) Children study on their own for a few minutes a day, then mark the practice chart.
- 3) At the end of the week parents sign the chart, and children bring it to school.
- 4) Math Facts Coaches use one of the procedures in the Assessment section, or use The Math Facts Mad Dash.
- 5) Teachers recognize and reward students who meet the challenge.

## Practice Charts

This can be the start of a home study habit.

All you need to do is send home a practice chart once a week.

Practice charts are in the Assessment section.

The practice chart serves as a reminder to children to practice.

Practice charts also serve to remind parents to encourage their children to study and progress.

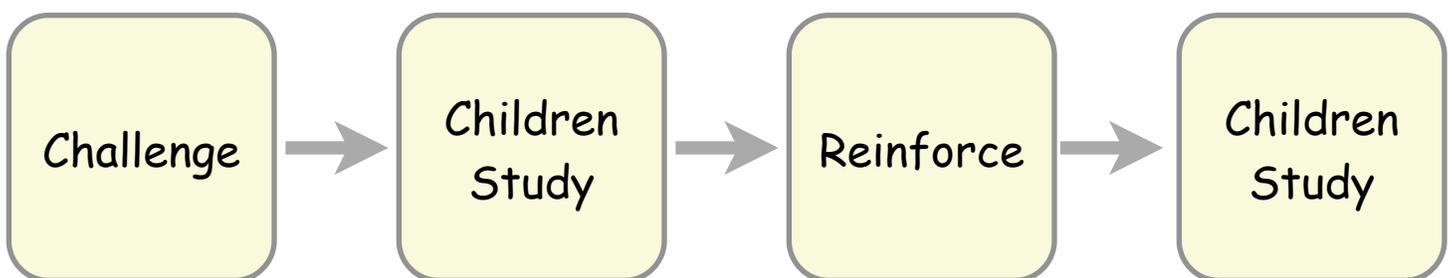
## Rewards and Celebrations

Rewards and celebrations can be motivating, encouraging, and reinforcing.

Parents can recognize and reward progress and effort.

The simplest rewards encourage and reinforce studying.

This increases the chances that children will continue to study.



## Considerable Benefits

The challenge, the practice charts, and encouragement from parents lead to a home study habit.

Children thrive from their parents' encouragement. They develop grit, focus and perseverance.

Children will be more confident when they face future challenges.

## Challenge Tips

Make the first challenge on the easier side. Include a couple of challenging facts.

When children learn these facts, they prove to themselves that they can study on their own, and learn facts.

In future challenges, you can use the same facts for everyone, or have different levels.

# A Math Facts Challenge

## Challenge Children to Study Math Facts on their Own.

### Parents,

Challenging children to learn math facts is better than:

- 1) Nagging or forcing them to study.
- 2) Drilling them with flashcards until you are both frustrated.

Knowing basic math facts is crucial to success in math. The best way to learn these facts is for children to study at home, for a few minutes every day. You do not study with them. This is something they do on their own. You can encourage them, and pay attention to their progress.

If your children study for just a few minutes a day, they will make progress. Post the chart below on your fridge. After children study, they record the date and activity. With a glance, you can see if they studied.

### Join the teacher's challenge or make your own.

There is an article for parents on how to challenge their children. It's free, along with instructional flashcards kits, at [studysmart.com](http://studysmart.com).

**Help your child set an alarm.** When forming a habit, it's best to do the activity at the same time each day. It helps to attach the new habit to something the child does every day, like eating dinner. Right before or after dinner is a great time. The alarm reminds them to study. If they do not study by a certain time, you can remind them.

Rewards and celebrations can be a treat, like a cookie, a hug or a high-five. The simplest rewards both encourage and reinforce studying. They increase the chances that the child will study again tomorrow.

### Understanding first. Then quick recall.

When learning facts, children should take their time and think, make connections, and use strategies. The ability to recall facts quickly comes with practice.

### Testing your child.

At the end of the week, test your child. Hold up each of the flashcards. Give your child three seconds to answer.

## Practice Chart

Each day children study math facts, they write the date and the activity. If children practice *without* a reminder, they check the "R" column.

| Date | R | Activity |
|------|---|----------|
|      |   |          |
|      |   |          |
|      |   |          |
|      |   |          |
|      |   |          |
|      |   |          |
|      |   |          |
|      |   |          |
|      |   |          |

Child: \_\_\_\_\_



### Teacher's Challenge

Answer these facts with a three-second time limit per fact.

|  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

For Parents: How will you celebrate if your child meets the challenge? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

Please return this to your child's teacher.