

flashcard hacks



by
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Creative +
Engaging
Ways For
Kids To
Learn Their
Math Facts

This ebook came out of a need for my own family. **My kids hated flash cards.**

Each time I would try to practice their facts with them we'd all end up miserable. They hated to be forced. I kept trying the same thing and got the same results--- complete and utter failure on my part.

I had to get creative and began to think of flashcards in a whole new way. Our whole experience with flashcards did a 180. My ideas are compiled here for you to try with the kids in your life. **These are time tested and kid-approved.**

Once I saw success with my own children, I started using these "hacks" in my classroom and got great

results. I hope you find them as helpful and engaging as we have.

Remember to do them with a light heart and a fun spirit. I suggest that you practice in short sessions (10 minutes or so) and do them several times a week until the facts have been pretty much mastered. Many of these can be done in the car or in quick pockets of time anytime of the day. Modify as you deem necessary to fit your child's needs.



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Sort 'Em

In this activity, children will be sorting the flash cards into categories according to their value. **First, you must decide on your categories.** (See suggestions below for each operation) You can make the categories as specific or as general as you'd like. Just write them on post-its, index cards or scraps of paper. **Next, give them 5 or 10 cards to start sorting.** Eventually, they can work their way up to sorting the entire deck. When they have finished sorting, you can look over the answers and talk about them a bit. You might say:

"Now what is 3 plus 6? Yes, the sum is 9. That is why it is in the less than 10 category"

"Hmmm. I see 6 plus 5 in the less than 10 category, where should I move it?"

You do not have to go thru all the piles, but it is good for them to hear your thinking process out loud and hear the vocabulary used, as well.

Addition and Subtraction

For addition and subtraction flash cards, you may start with the categories of less than 10, 10, and greater than 10. Or single digit sums and double digit sums (these categories also review great vocabulary!)

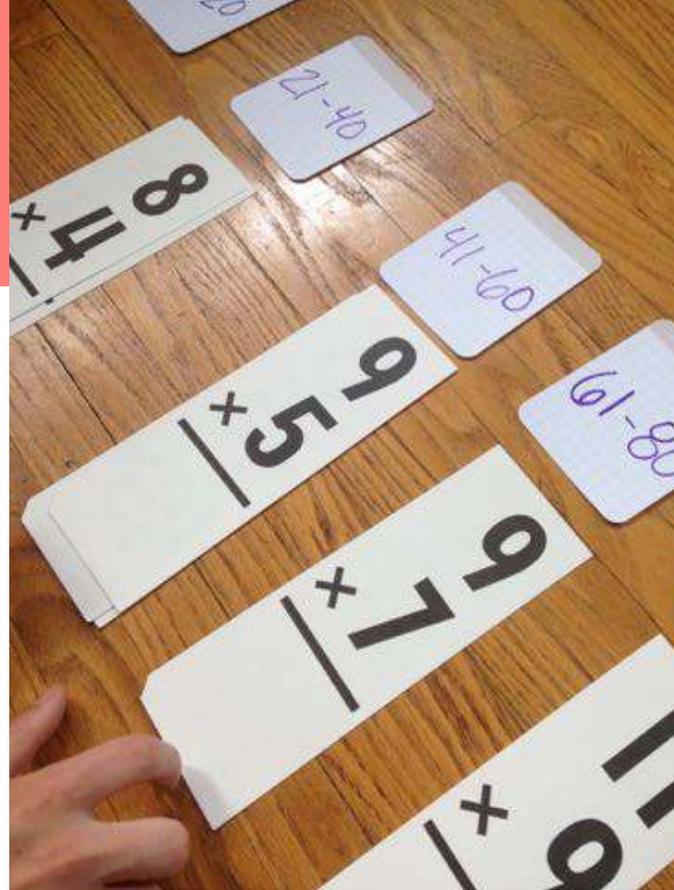
Multiplication and Division

Multiplication categories can have a range of 10 or 20 (0 thru 10, 11 thru 20, 21 thru 30, etc) Division categories can be similar to the ones you use for addition.

The great thing is that you make up the categories to fit your child--and you can modify them in an instant.

Other ideas for categories:
Even sum, Odd sum
- Easy for me, Still Learning

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This is a great activity for developing number sense. If the answer is not known, kids must use what they do know to make their best guess.

Tell Me a Story

Choose 1 flash card and make up a story to fit the equation. Adults will have to model this for sure--be a little kooky and add lots of colorful words. (See example below) You can have kids write their story on paper for writing practice or you can transcribe a story for younger children. This is great for understanding the operations.

Example Story for $9 - 3 = 6$ Elsa had 9 pieces of white popcorn. She went to the windy seashore to feed the seagulls. On her way, she met three friendly squirrels and gave them each one piece of popcorn. When she got to the beach she only had 6 pieces left to feed to the birds.

Search the Deck

Give your child post-its with a few products or sums written on them. They have to search the deck to find cards that match with only those answers. This can be done for any level, and any operation. Vary the amount of cards they search thru to fit your child.

Find Two

A variation of Search the Deck, you must search the deck to find two cards with the same value. See how many pairs (or triples!) you can find.



Order Up!

Give your child 3 to 5 flash cards to start. Have them place the cards in order from least to greatest. You can keep handing them 1 card and have them place the card in the appropriate spot on their growing number line. This one is great because they are mentally doing each problem every time they have to place a new card.



Hi/Lo

Choose two cards from the deck. Your child tells you which one is highest and which one is lowest. Cards can be chosen randomly or you may choose them to fit your child's level.

Add another card in the mix for a Hi/Mid/Lo version. Kids tell you which card goes in the middle.

Bingo!

This one takes a bit more prep at first, but is really fun and can be played like a game by a small group. Prepare bingo cards to match the operation you are working on. (I have created some for you to use) Kids draw from the deck of flash cards, show the card to the group and place a marker over the answer. Play continues until you get three in row (or four!). This can be played individually as well or more cooperatively in pairs with the goal of covering 10 spots on a card.

A variation on this game is to use a multiplication chart as your game board. It can be blank or already filled in for the beginner. As you pull multiplication flash cards, either fill in or circle the answer on the chart. Continue pulling cards until you circle or fill in 15 , 20 or all of the squares.

War

Much like the card game of the same name, players split the deck, and lay one card out at a time together. The player with the higher answer takes the cards. When you place one down with the same answer, you place another one face down and then turn over a third to see who wins the tie and the extra cards! Play continues until one player has all the cards.

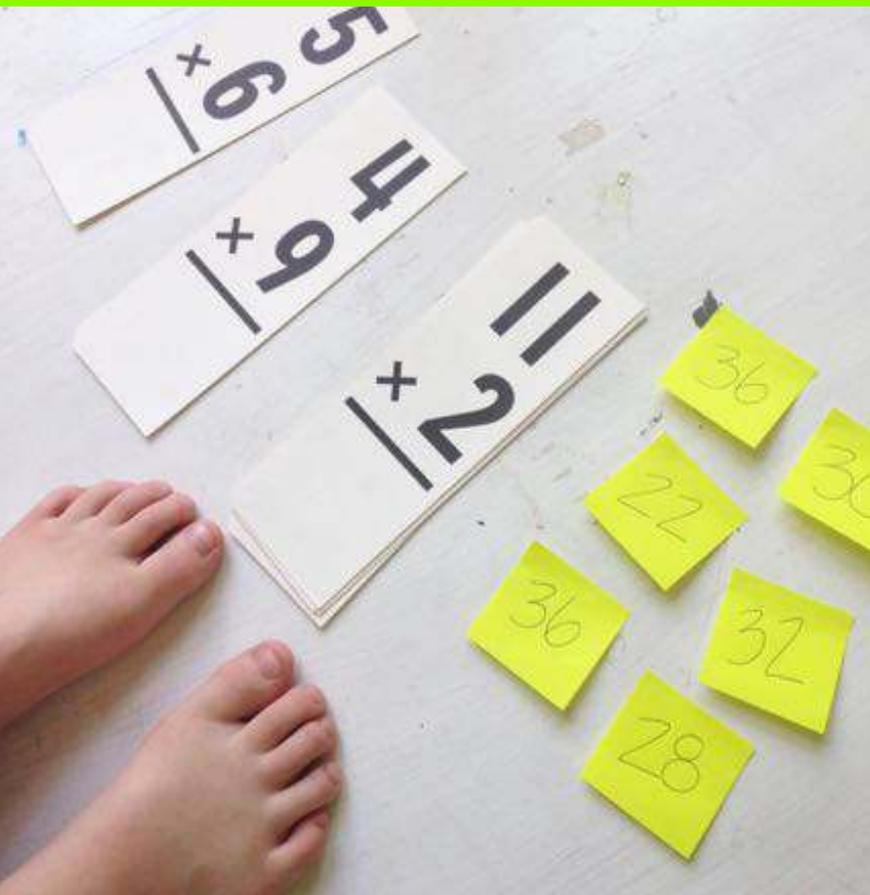
Match a beginning player with a more advanced player for this and they get some help!

Variation: To win both cards the player with the highest card must say the answer to both of the flash cards correctly before taking them. If the answer is wrong cards get returned to the bottom of the pile.

Match Game

Write the answers to 5 or 10 flash cards on tiny sticky notes. Kids will match the answers to the cards. For the beginner have the cards already chosen from the deck so they only have to work with a small number of cards. Add

in extra cards, so there are more cards than sticky, as they feel more comfortable.



Give it to me!

Give your child a description of a certain card they have to find in the deck of flash cards. Modify the deck size to suit your child's comfort level.

- Give me a card with an answer that is more than 10.
- Give me a card with an answer that is even.
- Give me a card with an answer less than 25.
- Give me a card with an answer of 10.

I Got This!

You will need a pack of super small stickers (*smiley faces, stars, etc*) When your child answers a card correctly they put a sticker around the edge of the front of the card. You can then see quickly which ones still need to be worked on... they can work to fill around the entire edge of the card.

Sort It Cards

Cut out and use these cards for your categories or create your own using index cards or post its.

LESS THAN

10

10

GREATER
THAN

10

Facts
I Know

Facts
I Am
Learning

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Sample bingo card to be used with addition flash cards

B	I	N	G	O
12	2	15	3	9
6	18	7	1	21
11	5	free	4	10
16	4	12	14	8
10	8	6	7	13

Sample bingo card to be used with multiplication flash cards

B	I	N	G	O
20	12	2	5	8
28	24	32	10	24
16	30	free	18	14
4	32	12	24	7
15	9	6	20	0

Sample bingo card to create your own bingo cards

B	I	N	G	O
		free		