

10 Apps for Math Fluency

Operation Math (iOS - \$2.99, Android - \$1.99)

This app turns your students into secret spies that will travel around the world on different missions. Kids can choose which operations they want to practice as they make their way through this app.

Sushi Monster (iOS - Free)

Scholastic's app offers children multiplication and addition problems. They'll have to reach a target number by picking the correct factors and addends listed on different pieces of sushi.

Quick Math - Arithmetic & Times Tables (iOS - \$1.99)

With this app, kids will answer traditional skill-and-drill questions -- but they won't have to enter answers into a keypad. Instead, your children can write the answer anywhere on the screen of their device, and the app will read their handwriting and record their response.

Pet Bingo by Duck Duck Moose (iOS - \$1.99, Android - \$1.99)

In this game, children will have to answer addition, subtraction, multiplication or division questions and place their answer on a bingo board. This app is full of colorful cartoon characters and offers visual models to help students understand each problem.

Meerkat Math HD (iOS - \$1.99)

This adventure app asks students to complete different races using their math facts. In order to make their meerkat avatar run and jump fast enough to be a winner, they'll have to answer each question quickly and correctly.

Math Flash Cards * (iOS - Free)

A traditional skill-and-drill app (yes, the asterisk is part of the title), Math Flash Cards * helps children practice their times tables by customizing the number and difficulty level of each question. This app has a simple interface that makes it easy for kids to play.

10monkeys Multiplication (iOS - \$1.99, Android - Free)

Kids can practice multiplication facts with this animated app. The goal is to help monkeys trapped in a tree escape by answering a set of questions correctly. This app is broken down into different times table and includes a reference chart to review facts.

Math Monsters - Bingo (iOS - Free)

Students can practice all operations using this bingo app. They'll solve each problem and then find the answer on the bingo board. Players need to be strategic if they want to win the game.

Math Vs Zombies (iOS - \$4.99, Android - Free)

This silly app asks children to add, subtract, multiply or divide single- and two-digit numbers. Students need to answer each question correctly in order to zap the zombies back into humans.

Yodelon Math Mountain (iOS - \$2.99, Android - \$1.99)

A virtual take on a traditional carnival game, this app helps children practice all four operations. They'll have to work quickly so that the yodeler doesn't fall from the top of the mountain.

Fun ways to Practice Math Facts at Home

- **Play with dice.** Really. Toss the flash cards and practice adding, subtracting, and multiplying using the numbers you roll on dice.
- **Flashlight math** Use the flashcards and flip two cards at a time. Children shine a flashlight on the one they know and answer that one. Simple. Don't have a flashlight? Make a math wand. Use a stick or a light saber. Anything that interests your child!
- **Use electronics.** Take advantage of the many apps and websites that do the trick! IF you have five minutes and your child says, "Can I play a game on your phone?" Say, "Why yes you may, I'm so very glad you asked." 😊
- **Write the answer.** Or paint the answer. Water on cement or chalk on sidewalk or window crayon on window. One person flashes the cards and the other one writes.
- **Math Bingo** Again, toss the flash cards and play math bingo as a way to learn and practice these numbers.
- **Answer races** Stand on one side of the room and make your child run to the other side of the room to write the answer on a long piece of roll paper on the floor or taped to the wall.
- **Go crazy!** You flip the card and say it in one voice and the child says the answer in the same kind of voice (whisper, grumble, shout, squeaky, princess, movie character, etc.)
- **Skype or Facetime** with family members and have them flash the cards and the child says the answers.
- **Tricks** can work pretty well, especially for hard to remember facts. For example, multiplying a number times 2 is the same as the double of the number in addition, $7 \times 2 = 7 + 7$; or remembering the product of 7×8 by counting 5,6,7,8 ($5,6 = 7, \times 8$); or when solving for xll facts, double the digit being multiplied by ll (up to 9×11) etc.
- **Mnemonic Devices** (or stories) have proven to be the best for students with learning disabilities, but they work for everyone. For example, "You have to be 16 to drive a 4×4 ." or "Picture a football coach feeding his 7 linemen 7 cans of beans each, so they can beat the '49ers."
- **Limit the facts to be learned at once.** Sort a stack of flashcards into piles; those that are known automatically and those that are not. Practice one or two unknown facts at a time along with known facts until they become automatic.
- **Use timers.** Each night, give 1, 2 or 3 minutes to answer as many math facts as possible given a sheet of problems or a stack of flashcards. Chart the number right and celebrate/reward increasing automaticity.
- **Use music.** There are a lot of CD's and some DVD's that do this. One that comes to mind is Schoolhouse Rock.