

Section #3: Right-brain Flashcards

The Method and Objectives:

Right-brain flashcards are yet another creative-critical-thinking team player exercise. Honestly, a lot of kids (and parents) have a hard time with them. Because they are so “unusual and different” from other approaches, they cause an uncomfortable feeling or even plain old insecurity. I remember feeling all of the above. Once you understand why you or your child are feeling this way, it is much easier to address it and deal with it. It makes us uncomfortable because our brain’s analytical left side doesn’t want to have to communicate with the creative right side; it just wants to do its thing, fill in the answer and move on. Many times, the left side is not good at communicating and is even a

little possessive of the more analytical and critical skills. According to our brain’s left side, the right side is “hairbrained” or maybe even a lesser twin. The process might be painful at first, but it is oh, so beneficial. When we train our brain hemispheres to communicate, we are creating pathways between the two, which in turn strengthens the ability to reason and communicate fluidly in all areas of life, raising the level of our verbal aptitude and cognitive ability. Imagine that you are helping your child to train their brain hemispheres to walk together, each taking its turn instead of one side dragging the other or trying to exclude it completely. This is a discipline worth pursuing.

Right-brain flashcards help the student to memorize the whole fact by not allowing the student to see the equation with a blank for its answer. This is especially important for visual learners. (This is similar in concept to not allowing a child to see a word misspelled if at all possible. It is much easier to start with the correct spelling and the whole fact than to correct a wrong answer habit later.)

Right-brain flashcards do not have to be fancy. They can simply be the math fact, including the answer. You do not have to be super creative to make this type of study aid. If your child wants to make up a story for the fact they can, but this is entirely optional.

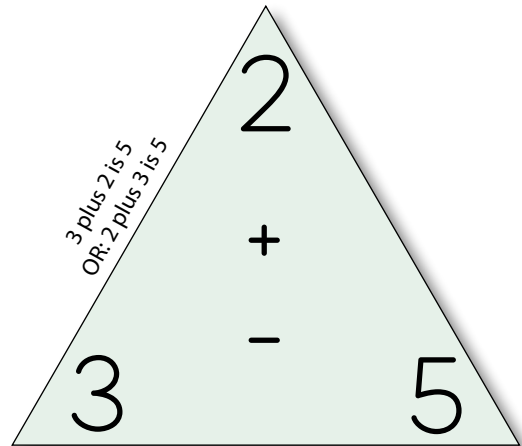
Right-brain flashcards can be horizontal, vertical or (for fact families) triangular. Study the samples of the addition/subtraction flashcards and multiplication/division flashcards below.

Please note: Subtraction is introduced in Lesson 29 of Math Level 1. Therefore, in *Math Level 1*, do not use the Triangle Flashcards for your right-brain flashcards.

$$2 + 3 = 5$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ + 3 \\ \hline 5 \end{array}$$

Move your finger from one number to the next as you say it.

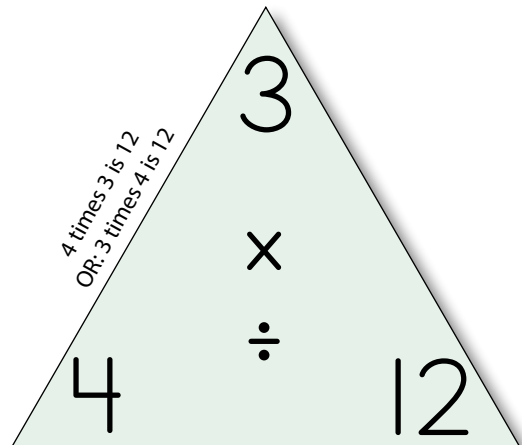


Like This: 5 take away 3 is 2.
OR: 5 take away 2 is 3.

$$3 \times 4 = 12$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ \times 4 \\ \hline 12 \end{array}$$

Move your finger from one number to the next as you say it.



Like This: 12 divided by 3 is 4
OR: 12 divided by 4 is 3