

Games for Math Facts

1, 2, 3, Show

Materials: your hands

Players: 2 or more

How to play:

Choose an operation: addition, subtraction, or multiplication. One of the players says, "1, 2, 3, Show". Both players hold up any number of fingers on one hand. The first person to add, subtract, or multiply the numbers held up by both players earns a point. The person with the most points at the end of play is the winner. Keep a list of the facts you know and don't know.

To practice the facts above 5, both players use both of their hands to form the numbers. The rest of the play remains the same.

Operation Uno

Materials: Uno cards

Players: 2 or more

How to Play:

This game is played just like the game of Uno, with one minor change. The players choose an operation (addition, subtraction, or multiplication). Once the operation has been decided, play begins. The top card in the deck is flipped over onto the discard pile. Each player must lay a card that is the same color or number as the top card on the discard pile.

Each time a person plays a card, he/she must tell the difference, sum, or product (depending on the operation chosen) of the card he/she lays and the last card played. Record the facts in one of two columns on a self-made recording sheet, "pairs I know" or "pairs I don't know". Practice those pairs you don't know.

Note: Each card with writing (skip, reverse, etc) has a value of 10.

For more of a challenge, perform the operation on the top two cards in the discard pile and the next card to be played. You may even challenge a family member to perform the operation with the cards in the entire discard pile!! Find the level that is right for you!

Operation Compare

Materials: a deck of cards for each player

Players: 2 or more

How to Play:

This game is played like the traditional game of war with a couple of changes. The players must first choose an operation (addition, subtraction, or multiplication). Instead of turning over just one card each, players turn over 2 cards from their deck. The person who has the highest sum, difference, or product wins the cards. Play continues in this manner until one of the players runs out of cards.

Note: Face cards are worth 10.

If time is an issue, play for 15-20 minutes. At the end of that time, the person with the most cards is the winner.

Dice Digits

Materials: a pair of dice

Players: 1 or more

How to Play: Players choose an operation (addition, subtraction, multiplication). Roll the dice and perform the appropriate operation with the numbers rolled. Record the pairs on a recording sheet labeled, "pairs I know" and "pairs I don't know". Be sure to practice the unknown pairs!

To make this game more competitive, 2 players can each roll two dice. The person with the higher sum, difference, or product wins a point. If there is a tie, no players receive the point. Whoever reaches 10 points first is the winner.

Note: If you know all of your facts and need more of a challenge, use three or four dice. Roll the dice and add, subtract, or multiply all of the numbers.