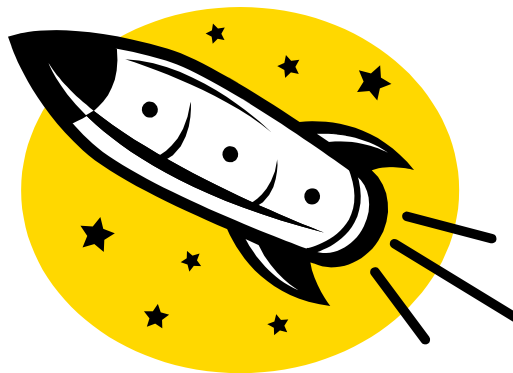


Dear Parents,

Congratulations! You have taken a very important step. You are thinking about math facts. There are several things to know about **Rocket Math** and learning math facts. Please look carefully at all the parts of the website. No. Really look at it. Dig down. Pour yourself a cold one (and by that I mean ice tea of course) and start clicking.



Read about the importance of math facts to your child's future ability to become facile with higher order math algorithms. Read about how to use flashcards the "smart" way. Make sure that you look very carefully at how **Rocket Math** is different from other manners of building fact fluency. (Hint: **Rocket Math** doesn't make kids ...or parents, cry.) Examine how it can ensure that students learn all the facts in all operations instantly, without hesitation.

Your child's goals for how many problems to answer in one minute should be carefully based on his or her writing speed. Your child should pass a level in **Rocket Math** every few days. If your child is not having a successful experience learning math facts, please look on our website, download the free copy of the directions, read them and share them with your child's teacher. If things are still not working out after following the directions carefully please contact us. We'd be glad to help.

**Rocket Math** takes only a few minutes each day, but students will keep working until they have mastered all the facts. A fact is mastered when it can be answered instantly, without any pause. **Rocket Math** is unique because it teaches only 2 facts and their reverses on each page. For example 4+5, 5+4, 4+6 and 6+4. The program allows each child to go at his or her own pace, taking as many days to master those two facts as needed. Students are given an opportunity daily to show they have learned a set of facts by passing a test. Once students "pass" a set of facts, they color in the letter for that set on their "Rocket Chart."

If your child is using **Rocket Math** at school, you can help your child progress and learn faster by practicing at home. Any day your child does not pass a set of facts he or she should bring that sheet home as homework. It will help a great deal if you will practice with your child for five minutes with that sheet.

If you are using the ***Rocket Math*** curriculum at home only, make sure that you:

- **read the directions**
- **follow the directions**

See? We don't ask much.

No matter who you are or where your child is receiving the bulk of the ***Rocket Math*** curriculum, here's how we recommend you practice:

- Your child sits with the practice sheet in front of him/her. The problems for practice go in a circle around the outside of the page and ***should not*** have the answers written in. You will work only these outside facts. You may wish to tape paper over the inside part. This is the test that your child took that day.
- Your child reads each fact (***not just the answer***) aloud and says the answer.
- If you hear either the slightest hesitation or an error on one of the facts, give your child some extra practice on that fact by immediately giving your child the answer and asking him/her to repeat the problem and the answer three times.
- Your child then backs up three problems and begins again.
- If there is no hesitation or mistake when the problem is reached this time, be sure to praise your child and let him/her continue. Go once around the outside of the page. This should only take about three minutes. If you would like to do a second session of practice, wait at least an hour, or try it again in the morning. When working on memorizing facts, two or three short sessions with time in between, is much more helpful than one very long session.
- **If your child does *Rocket Math* at school, he/she should be able to explain this procedure to you because it is the same that is used to practice in class.**

Learning all the facts in an operation is a lot of work, but future success in math is dependent upon knowing facts so well that the answers come automatically without much thinking. Especially in a world of calculators, being able to compute math facts mentally is needed just to know if the calculator answer is correct. Please be sure to share with your child how you feel about the mastering of math facts. Thank you so much for your support of this critical learning goal.

Sincerely,

Don Crawford, Ph.D.