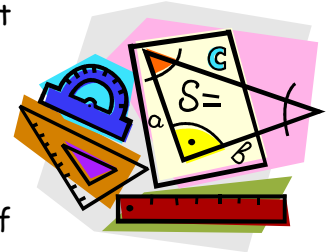


Why is math practice so important?

I am no math expert but I believe that practicing math is important for our children. Mastering any skill, whether it is music, sports, or math, takes practice - lots of practice. You may have bought into the deceptions of "drill is bad, we should teach concepts". It is not that simple. Mindless drill without teaching concepts and patterns in the math facts is sort of futile, but drill and practice of math facts has its place.



Let's take multiplication facts. Children must understand the concept first, and then they realize patterns in multiplication facts. Once they discover that, then you can show them some tricks and such, and ultimately they need to practice to be fluent with their facts.

Practicing basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts is important. In fact, it's crucial if your child wish to do well in Math. If your child know the facts, any math topic that they will face later in their education will come easy for them. Fractions, decimals, and percents will come as easy as a pie.



If your children are not fluent with their math facts, they will have a harder time studying math later in their Junior High and High School years. Often times our children get frustrated in math and started thinking that they are just 'no good' in math. Parents, you need to prevent that! Start helping them with their math facts.

If you agree that having fundamental math skills is important to your child, you should at least help them practice their math skills. This year, Math in Action plan to provide a number of ways for our children to practice their fundamental math skills as well as challenge their minds. Get your child involved in at least one of the program MIA offers.

Elly Sarwono