

THINKING STRATEGIES FOR BASIC FACTS

The key to using strategies for basic facts is to have the children discover the patterns and then name them. These are suggestions.

Addition Facts

Strategy	Description	Examples
Zero	Add zero to any number Think: <i>The answer is just the number!</i>	$5+0$ Think: <i>It's just 5</i>
One-more-than Two-more-than	Add one or two to any number Think: <i>Say the number and count up one (or two.)</i>	$5+1=6$ Think: <i>It's 5, 6.</i>
Doubles	Add a number to itself Think: <i>Just double the number.</i>	$5+5=10$ Think: <i>Double 5 is 10.</i>
Neighbors (or Near Doubles)	Add a number and its neighbor Think: <i>Double one of the numbers and (add or subtract) one.</i>	$5+6$ Think: <i>Double 5 is 10, add 1 to get 11.</i> OR $5+6$ Think: <i>Double 6 is 12, subtract 1 to get 11.</i>
Tens	Ten plus a single digit Think: <i>Ten plus any single digit is the 'teen' (or 11 or 12)</i>	$10+6$ Think: <i>10, 6, make a teen is 16.</i>
Make Tens	One addend is 8 or 9. Use it to make a ten and then use the Tens strategy. Think: <i>Take 1 or 2 from the other number to make a 10 with the 9 or 8, then say the 'teen.'</i>	$8+6$ Think: <i>Use 2 from the 6 to make the 8 a 10 (6 becomes a 4), then $10+4$ is 14.</i>
Nifty Nines	See Make Tens or just think: <i>Nine plus a single digit is the teen that is one less.</i>	$9+6$ Think: <i>Nifty nine plus 6, one less than 6 is 5, answer is 15!</i>
Almost Neighbors	The difference between the addends is 2. Think: <i>Double one of the numbers and (add or subtract) two.</i>	$7+5$ Think: <i>Double 5 is 10, add 2 to get twelve</i> OR <i>Double 7 is 14, subtract 2 is 12.</i>
Make a Double	The difference between the addends is 2. Think: <i>Take one from the bigger number and add it to the smaller number to make a double.</i> OR <i>Find the middle number and double it.</i>	$7+5$ Think: <i>1 from the 7 given to the 5 makes $6+6$ which is 12.</i> OR <i>6 is between 7 and 5, double 6 is 12.</i>

Multiplication Facts

A great book for multiplication strategies is *The Best of Times* by Greg Tang, available from Scholastic, Amazon, etc. It usually appears in a Scholastic book order about once a year. (All the books by Greg Tang are great!)

Strategy	Description	Examples
Zero	If I have 0 groups of anything, I always have 0. Think: <i>The answer is always 0!</i>	0×5 Think: <i>It's always 0.</i>
Ones (or the Identity)	If I have 1 group of any number, I just have that number. Think: <i>1 times any number is that number.</i>	1×6 Think: It is just the number, so it is 6!
Twos	Double the number. OR This is Doubles from addition!	2×8 Think: Double 8, so $8+8$ is 16.
Threes	Double plus another.	3×6 Think: Double 6 is 12, add 6 again, that's 18.
Fours	Double and double again. OR Double and then add the double to itself	4×7 Think: Double 7 is 14 and double 14 is 28. OR Double 7 is 14, so 14 and 14 is 28.
Fives	Count by fives. OR Multiply by 10 and halve that.	5×6 Think: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 That's six 5s so the answer is 30. OR 10×6 is 60, half of 60 is 30.
Sixes	Triple the number and then double it. OR Multiply by five and add another.	6×7 Think: 3×7 is 21, double 21 and get 42. OR 5×7 is 35, add another 7 and get 42.
Sevens	Multiply by five and add the double.	7×8 Think: 5×8 is 40, 2×8 is 16, $40+16$ is 56.
Eights	Double the number three times.	8×6 Think: 2×6 is 12, 2×12 is 24, and 2×24 is 48.
Nines	Multiply by 10 and subtract the number.	9×7 Think: 10×7 is 70, subtract 7 to get 63.
Tens	Add a zero to the number.	10×6 Think: Put 6 in the tens place and 0 in the ones place to get 60.