Suggestions for Practicing Your Math Facts

Okay…so what exactly do you mean by math facts? Math facts are the basic math problems your child should memorize and be able to recall automatically. For example, 6 x 5 = 30; 1 x 7 = 7; 72 ÷ 9 = 8.

In third grade, students learn strategies to help them figure out their math facts. For example, with all the times 2 facts (1 x 2, 2 x 2, 2 x 3, etc), students are taught that these are the same as doubling the number that is not two (2 x 3 = 3 + 3). In 4^{th} and 5^{th} grade, it is important to have these facts memorized in order to be successful in long division, multi-digit multiplication, and fractions. Math facts are the foundation for many skills in math, and students will have more confidence if these facts are memorized and automatic.

Suggested Progression in Learning Facts

1. Practice multiplication and division together. For example: 5 x 6 = 30, 6 x 5 = 30, 30 ÷ 5 = 6, and 30 ÷ 6 = 5 are all part of the same fact family because we can use the multiplication fact to figure out the division fact and vice versa
2. Master facts in the following order:
    - **0 and 1 times tables** (anything times 0 is 0; anything times 1 is the number you're multiplying by)
        - 1 x 1, 1 x 2, 1 x 3, 1 x 4, 1 x 5, 1 x 6, 1 x 7, 1 x 8, 1 x 9, 1 x 10, 1 x 11, 1 x 12
        - 0 x 1, 0 x 2, 0 x 3, 0 x 4, 0 x 5, 0 x 6, 0 x 7, 0 x 8, 0 x 9, 0 x 10, 0 x 11, 0 x 12
    - **5 and 10 times tables** (most students in 4^{th}/5^{th} grade can count by 5s and 10s, but memorizing these facts makes our math faster and more accurate)
        - 10 x 2, 10 x 3, 10 x 4, 10 x 5, 10 x 6, 10 x 7, 10 x 8, 10 x 9, 10 x 10, 10 x 11, 10 x 12
        - 5 x 2, 5 x 3, 5 x 4, 5 x 5, 5 x 6, 5 x 7, 5 x 8, 5 x 9, 5 x 11, 5 x 12 (5 x 10 not included because it was already memorized in the times 10 table – each table gets easier if you've memorized the ones before!)
    - **2 times tables** (double the number)
        - 2 x 2, 2 x 3, 2 x 4, 2 x 6, 2 x 7, 2 x 8, 2 x 9, 2 x 11, 2 x 12
    - **9 times tables**
        - 9 x 3, 9 x 4, 9 x 6, 9 x 8, 9 x 9, 9 x 11, 9 x 12
    - **4 times tables** (double the number and double it again)
        - 4 x 3, 4 x 4, 4 x 6, 4 x 7, 4 x 8, 4 x 11, 4 x 12

- **Square Numbers** (length and width is the same)
    - 3 x 3, 6 x 6, 7 x 7, 8 x 8, 11 x 11, 12 x 12
- **3 Times Tables**
    - 3 x 6, 3 x 7, 3 x 8, 3 x 11, 3 x 12
- **The remaining facts**
    - 8 x 6, 8 x 7, 7 x 6
    - Rest of the 11s and 12s

Okay, so now how do I practice?

1. **Flashcards** – you can make your own with index cards or pieces of paper, print some off the internet, or buy some at the dollar store
2. **Online Games or Apps** – There are many math fact practice games and apps online – just do a search for them! One of my favorite math game websites is www.mathplayground.com
3. **Songs! –** Search YouTube for math fact songs to help you remember them. Here's one to get you started - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OkCUoql9eQ8
4. **Rhymes –** Make up rhymes for math facts that are tricky. One of my favorites is 6 x 4 = 24 – "6 and 4 went to the door and came back 24!"