

# ***RIGHT BRAIN MATH***

(for kids who are “brittle” in math)

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***Teach your children to work “SMARTER” not “HARDER”***

**Right brain children learn and memorize information differently than their left brain siblings. They love it when you show them how to learn so that things “stick instead of slip”. Help them get in touch with the smart part of themselves. When you learn to “teach to their strength”, they shine in schooling. “Curriculum driven” teaching is left brain teaching.**

***If you have a child who doesn’t like school work, or thinks it is too hard or boring, you will find them come alive when you start using Right Brain Teaching Strategies with them!***

**Use “Alternative Teaching Techniques” for:**

## **Taming the Math Monster**

### **I. Facts**

*Plan A is to memorize all the addition and multiplication facts, before going on to subtraction and division.*

*Plan B is to have a strategy to figure out the facts quickly, so one can go on and do higher math processes with no problem.*

#### **A. Addition facts**

*If you don't give your child a Plan B, he will create one with his fingers. This is workable, but not very fast. If your child continues to need manipulatives to add, or uses his fingers, give him a way to “see his fingers” directly on the numbers. I use a technique called Touch/Visual Math. It is different that regular Touch Math, in that we use picture, story and emotion to put them permanently into the visual memory. (we have these cards available, or you can easily make them). Once the child can see the invisible dots on the numbers (the story and emotion...always a tragedy that involves blood or other good bodily fluids), then he can add multiple columns, in one afternoon...feeling so smart. Then, in an hour, you can teach how to ‘carry’ numbers, always putting the columns in a different color, and using a story. (we wait and teach place value, which is not helpful to our spatially challenged kiddoes, until they are in college!...just kidding...but we do wait a long time).*

## B. Multiplication facts

*The easiest way to store these facts, for right brainers, or children who have an auditory processing problem, is to attach these facts to story, color, picture and emotion. The right brain stores these elements, with the left brain math fact "accidentally" attached! Put the stories/card up high, so the child's eyes can see them. such as at the breakfast table. (we have the delightful Right Brain Multiplication Cards available, but, again, you can easily make your own). Memorize about 5 of the hard multiplication facts each week, taking pictures of them every day of the week, as we do with the spelling technique. You will see your child memorize those pesky multiplication facts faster than you thought possible.*

## II. Processes

*If your child needs to do math during the summer in order not to fall behind, then you are using **Plan A** for learning and memorizing these processes. Multiple repetition done in a practice book does not "stick" for these kids...as you've noticed! You will love using **Plan B**, which is to teach each one of these processes using picture, story and emotion to hold them in. This how I got my 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders so they could get into Pre-Algebra. They finally remembered all the processes for the test!*

- A. Subtraction (how to do it fast, without knowing all the addition facts!)
- B. Multiplication
- C. Division
- D. Fractions (the many ways to work with fractions need to be taught with rich templates you make with emotion and story...we have examples)
- E. Decimals
- F. Algebra ("I forgot what order to do this equation in." If you hear that from your teenager, then you will love the way that we got our teenagers to remember this...using the picture of a teenager to remember all the steps!)
- G. Word Problems (use an individual booklet of these and make pictures)

*Make "templates", or examples of the math processes as you teach them, using picture, color, weird and emotion to easily remember these formulas and processes. Keep these examples up high, and have the child look at them, when he forgets how to do something. After 3 months you can remove them, and he will still see them in his head! That's how the brain works!*

## III. Curriculum

*Teach math processes "in depth" by using booklets comprised of all of one kind of math process (Addition; Subtraction; Multiplication; Division; Percents; Pre-Algebra, etc.) That way a child who is more "brittle" in math has the opportunity to really*

*learn a concept inside and out, before having to learn another concept. Spend more time giving your child good "scaffolding" for getting to the answer. Remember to "model, model, model", before you have the child work on his own. He needs to SEE YOU do it many times...preferably with a colored marker in your hand instead of a pencil!*

*Any math book will work, as long as you are using these friendly, right brain teaching techniques. Remember, instead of review in the math workbook pages, we have a rich representation, or example of each kind of problem put up high...like the alphabet strips...so the child can readily refer to it. Spend more time giving your child good "scaffolding" for getting to the answer. Remember to "model, model, model", before you have the child work on his own. He needs to SEE YOU do it many times...preferably with a colored marker in your hand!*

**\*HSLDA's new website: "Homeschooling the Struggling Learner", has the four learning gates, their characteristics, and more importantly, the interventions that a parent can use to help their child get past the learning block. This information packed website is a Godsend for homeschooling families. [www.hslida.org/strugglinglearner](http://www.hslida.org/strugglinglearner) Join HSLDA and receive many benefits for your children!**

**Dianne Craft has a master's degree in special education, teaching smart, hard working children who have to work too hard to learn. She is also a Certified natural Health Professional. Dianne is also a learning specialist for HSLDA. For more information on children and learning, or to purchase Right Brain Teaching products, go to her website: [www.diannecraft.org](http://www.diannecraft.org). To inquire about having Dianne speak at your conference, email: [pamscheduling@comcast.net](mailto:pamscheduling@comcast.net)**