MATH FOUNDATION SKILLS

Math foundation skills help children successfully progress through math curriculums, strengthening their ability to advance to higher levels without difficulty. The following exercises can be used to determine whether or not a student may need to practice these skills.

Reading Numbers
· Rapidly read numbers listed in random order from a sheet or an array of flash cards.
Try numbers between zero and ten, zero and 100, or zero and 1,000 or an even larger range, depending on the student's current level. Aim to reach fluency which is 120 digits per minute for students age ten and up. A personal aim for a 6-9 year old can be set at 80+ per minute.

Writing Numbers
· Write the digits 0-9 in sequence.
Students can write on blank paper, lined paper or on paper with rows of small boxes. Aim to reach fluency which is 100 or more digits per minute. A personal aim can be set at 50 digits per minute for younger students.

· Write number equations to equal ten.
Experiment with different number combinations that equal ten. For example, 1+9=10, 2x5=10, 20-10=10, etc. Try to find patterns in numbers, (i.e. 1+9=10, 2+8=10, 3+7=10, etc.). Aim to reach fluency at 80-100 digits and symbols (count math symbols and digits individually) per minute.

Basic Math Facts
· Write or say answers to addition and subtraction problems, sums to 18 and the corresponding subtraction. It's best to learn and practice addition and subtraction together because they are really two parts of the same skill.

· Write or say answers to multiplication and division problems, at least up to 12x12 and 144÷12. Multiplication and division are also two parts of the same skill, so practice these together as well.

· You can create your own practice sheets, or use arrays of flash cards. Another way to practice these skills is for you to say the problem and have the student say the answer (e.g. while riding in the car). Aim to reach fluency in writing or saying answers between 60 and 100 answers per minute. Students should master these skills in both forms, write and say.