



Dear families,

This year your child will be working on knowing his/her math facts fluently. In First grade, students need to fluently add and subtract numbers to 10 and in the Second grade, students will be assessed on facts to 20. This lends itself to so much more than just practicing flashcards. Check out some of my students' game recommendations below.

My Pile, Your Pile

Every player gets a set of flashcards with addition and subtraction facts. Players turn over the top card and the player that has the greatest answer wins all of the cards that round. Continue playing rounds until all cards are used. The player with the most cards wins! (I would also encourage using some mathematical language here. *For example, "I win all of the cards this round because my answer 7 is greater than your answer 5."*)

Clean Up!

Students take a pile of flashcards and throw them up in the air. (Wait for the giggles to stop.) There are a few ways you can play this game: 1) Search for cards that have the same answer and group them together, 2) Call out a number and the first person to find an equation that equals that number wins that round, or 3) Take turns picking up a card, answering it and essentially play "My Pile, Your Pile". (Example: "My $3+4=7$ is greater than your $2+4=6$ ") *What other ways can YOU think of to "Clean Up!"?*

Beat the Calculator

This is for 2 players. Flip over the top flashcard. 1 player has to solve it by using the calculator. The other player solves it another way. Whichever player says the correct answer first, wins! Take turns. (It is very motivating when a child can say "I BEAT the calculator!")

Most importantly, have fun! My best days are when my students leave after playing some of these games and say, "This was so fun! We didn't even do work today!"