

Mathematics

As teachers of Mathematics we have a big responsibility teaching the primary children. The “habits” of Mathematics are set at this time in a child’s life. Later unlearning what has been learnt becomes almost impossible. If unlearning what has been learnt is a difficult task, why not learn in such a way that unlearning is not necessary.

This way we establish good habits in a child.

The first habit we inculcate in a child is good handwriting.

The teacher should insist on the child writing the numerals clearly and legibly.

While teaching addition, the children should be made to learn the addition tables. This helps the children to add without using their fingers. Using fingers which actually slows down the process of addition.

Once the child learns to add using fingers or other aids, he/she finds it very difficult to outgrow this practice.

So the teacher must make the children thorough with the addition tables from $1 + 1 = 2$ to $10 + 10 = 20$.

This can be done by devoting a specific time everyday for learning the addition tables.

Getting a student to become thorough with the addition tables can be done in many interesting way.

A few suggested activities are:

1) *Activities with addition table - (1) A class can be divided into two groups - the one group which asks the questions and the other one which answers the questions. Group 1 says together $1 + 1$ is Group 2 says together 2 and so on. Then the groups can reverse their positions. (2) Small cards can be made by the children themselves with an addition fact in it e.g. $3 + 2 = 5$. These cards can be distributed among the children. The 5 family can be called out to form a group. This will have $1 + 4 = 5$, $4 + 1 = 5$, $2 + 3 = 5$, $3 + 2 = 5$ in it. Other similar families can be created and made to form a group. (3) Children can be given a set of addition facts like in “Lotto”. Every child gets a different set of addition fact. The teacher calls out a specific addition fact. The child who has it ticks it off in his or her card.*