

## Techniques for Teaching Factual Information

[When teaching basic skills and facts, teachers should follow these guidelines:]

1. Review prior knowledge before beginning the lesson.
2. Lessons should be brief and targeted toward specific skills.
3. When skills have a number of steps, teachers should conduct several short lessons instead of one long one.
4. Encourage rapid responses from students.
5. Provide drill and practice until mastery is obtained.
6. Use “distributed practice.”
7. When information is easily confused, separate its presentation over long periods of time.
8. Use systematic procedures, such as flashcards, for reinforcement.
9. Pair students who have similar skill needs.
10. Relate basic facts to students’ practical experiences.
11. Have students verbalize information aloud and then silently to themselves as they study.
12. Encourage use of memory strategies (ie: rehearsal and categorization).
13. Use parents or peers as tutors.
14. Have students use skills in a variety of situations beyond ones initially studied.
15. As students learn basic facts, apply the information to broader conceptual knowledge to encourage understanding of application.
16. As students master skills, gradually introduce new ones.
17. After skills have been practiced, check periodically to assure mastery.