

Rules to Lower the Amount of Memorization in Math

Miller, S.P., Strawser, S., & Mercer, C.D. (1996). Promoting strategic math performance among students with learning disabilities. *LD Forum*, 21(2), 34-40.

This strategy is designed to help students with some general mathematical rules. Relationships and rules are taught to assist in figuring out challenging problems. Students should be taught to recognize and use math rules and relationships along with concepts being taught.

Rules Addition

- Any number plus zero is the number.
- Any number plus 1 is the next larger number.
- The order of numbers in an addition problem doesn't change the answer.

Subtraction

- Any number take away zero is the number.
- Any number take away the same number is zero.
- Any number take away 1 is the next smaller number.
- In subtraction, when the **bottom** number in the ones column is **bigger** than the top number in the ones column, the **ten is traded**. (Bigger number on Bottom means Break down the ten and trade.)

Multiplication

- Any number times 0 equals 0.
- Any number times 1 equals the original number.
- 2 times any number equals the number added to itself.
- Changing the order of the numbers in multiplication does not change the answer.

Division

- 0 divided by any number equals 0.
- Any number divided by 1 equals the number.
- Any number divided by the same number equals 1.