

# Super Mental Addition

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Students arrange the 4 cards below in any right to left order they like. You stand behind the cards and cannot see the fronts of the cards. The students write down the numbers they see and find the total of the 5 numbers. You are able to write the correct total for them without seeing the cards. This can be redone at once with different totals each time

## Super Mental Addition

Card 1

front / back

1 7

7 4

2 5

9 6

3 3

Card 2

front / back

8 5

2 9

7 3

9 1

1 2

Card 3

front / back

3 6

8 3

5 7

1 2

4 8

Card 4

front / back

3 2

5 6

8 1

6 5

2 9

**Procedure:**

Show the students 4 cards shown below. Each card has 5 single digits listed vertically on the front and back of each card. Lean the 4 cards against a stack of 2 or 3 books so the fronts face the students. Call one student up and have the student arrange the 4 cards. The student can move the 4 cards into any order right to left and use either side of the 4 cards. You stand behind the cards facing the students so you cannot see the cards that face them. You need to see the second row of the numbers on the sides of the cards that face you. The students see five 4 digit numbers. You ask them to write down the 5 numbers on a piece of paper and add them up. You are able to state the correct total for them without seeing the front of the cards. This can be redone at once with different totals each time

**Finding the sum:**

1. Look on the back of the cards at the second row from the top.

**To state the sum do the following**

- A. Say the number 2
- B. Read the three numbers from the second row of the cards from **RIGHT TO Left**.
- C. The last digit will be 2 less than the fourth number in the second on the card.

**EXAMPLE:**

The second row on the back reads 9486. The total of all the five numbers on the front will be  
 $2(684)(9-2)$  or 26,847

**EXAMPLE:**

The second row on the back reads 3469. The total of all the five numbers on the front will be  
 $2(964)(1-2)$  or 29,641

**Preparation:**

Cut out the 4 cards on pages 3 to 6. Fold the cards in half from top to bottom. Tape the open edges together. Have 2 books or something like that on a desk so that you can lean the 4 cards against them and have them stand up and stay standing. Be sure you have room to stand behind the desk. You will need to have the cards supported in such a way that the cards stand upright facing the student but also stand so that you can see the second row from the top on the back side of the cards when you stand behind the cards.

A small set of cards is shown on page 7 for use with small groups.

**How does the effect work:** The follow up trick Supper Add Cards 2D has an extensive explanation of how the number were selected and how to make more complicated versions of this trick.

<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

**Cut out each card.**

**Fold the card in half  
from top to bottom.**

**Tape the open edges  
of the cards**

<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>

<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>

A smaller version of the cards for small groups

<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

Cut out each card.

Fold the card in half from top to bottom.

Tape the open edges of the cards

<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>

<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>