



## Making Sense of What I’m Learning (Facts vs. Figure it Out)

At school, we spend a lot of time building our fact-based brain. Facts are things that are proven to be true or something that is known. For example, facts include learning about numbers, letters, formulas, rules, or details about things or events. Facts often can be memorized. But did you know that there are other things that happen in school and home where we only have a little bit of information, but not enough - so our brain has to **figure out** what is happening and what to do (or not do) based on what we see, hear, feel, and experience. We also figure it out what to do or not do based on our own goals

We teach kids that they can **figure out** or *infer* by making a **Smart Guess**. Making a Smart guess just means we activate our eyes, ears, brain, and feelings to gather information about the people and the situation and then make sense of the information. We need both fact-based learning and figure-it-out learning at home and school. Below are a few examples of each. What other things can you think of that involve using your fact-based learning? What about things where you need to make Smart Guesses to figure it out?

I can memorize, remember, or know what is proven (facts)	I can figure it out (infer) with a Smart Guess
1. Math facts	1. Figuring out what characters say or do in a video or book
2. Science formulas	2. Figuring out how someone thinks or feels
3. Sight words	3. Figuring out when to ask for help
4. Spelling lists	4. Figuring out the plan for recess
5. Coding formulas	5. Figuring out what to say and do (or not say and do) in a situation
6. Daily schedule	6. Figuring out when to apologize
7. Weather patterns	7. Figuring out when it’s time to speak up or advocate for something
8. Driving routes	8. Figuring out your own social goals or the classroom/group goals
9. Historical dates	9.
10.	10.
11.	11.
12.	12.





**For Discussion:** Which one do you do more often in the following places (fact-based or figure it out based)?

1. At dinner with your family.
2. Taking a test
3. Sitting in a classroom at school.
4. Walking in the halls.
5. Playing or hanging out with someone during recess or lunch?

OR Draw a picture, tell, or show someone a time when you used your:

**Fact Brain**

**Figure-it-out Brain**

