



A lesson learnt: Barnes with daughters Leah, 9, left, and Beth, 7, read the Flipper cards that the Glasgow mum invented

Mum's maths aid may be bestseller

A GLASGOW mother of two is attracting international sales interest after launching a novel study aid she created to help teach her daughter arithmetic, writes Victoria Masterson.

Linda Barnes, 42, was inundated with inquiries from parents and teachers after her pocket-sized study cards trans-

formed her nine-year-old daughter Leah's performance in class.

The concept, where pupils write a question on one side of a blank card and the answer on the other, is inspired by a Japanese system for teaching languages. Barnes set up a new company, Pink Porcupine, in February to sell her own

version of the cards and has already won sales deals with retail chains including WH Smith and Ottakar's.

Glasgow city council is now testing Flippers cards in 12 primary schools and two secondaries. Barnes is consulting Business Gateway International Glasgow about overseas poten-

tial and has already had enquiries from South Africa, Canada, America, Italy and Germany.

"I used the cards myself to learn Japanese and they were tremendously effective," Barnes said. "It takes a lot of the strain out of learning and removes any anxiety of being wrong in front of classmates."