

Family Guide: Learning in Second Grade



About Second Grade:

You can expect a lot of growth in 2nd grade. Students expand their communication and collaboration skills while working in small teams and groups. There is noticeable growth in listening and conversation skills, while students rapidly develop their vocabularies.

Second graders strive to make sense of the bigger world. Students advance their literacy and critical thinking skills, learn about the world through a variety of texts and experiences, and engage in higher levels of problem solving and exploration of mathematical concepts.

Students use their literacy skills (reading, writing, language, listening/speaking) in authentic contexts throughout the school day including researcher's workshop. During the researcher's workshop students engage in investigations in science, social studies, and language arts based on topics of interest and curiosity.

THIS GUIDE INCLUDES:

- **What Your Child Should Know & Be Able to Do**
- **Activities to Support Learning**
- **Education Words**
- **Questions to Ask your Child's Teacher**

LITERACY

In 2nd grade, your child becomes a more experienced writer and reader by practicing their skills in more complex and comprehensive ways. Students read longer and more complex text, and write longer and more in-depth pieces. Second graders pursue personal interest and passion projects that involve research, collaboration, and critical thinking.

During reading and writing workshop, students take independent initiative and responsibility; they use feedback to guide learning and growth and consistently engage in goal setting. Students expand their reading comprehension skills as they talk about *what* they read, and develop more advanced ideas around those topics. Just like in previous years, second graders continuously practice reading as they engage in units and topics of study in science, social studies, and across the school day. They use a variety of digital tools to publish their writing.

Reading/Phonics

Students in 2nd grade should be able to read and understand grade-level text by:

- Purposefully, applying a variety of reading strategies (ask questions, infer, summarize, visualize) to monitor comprehension
- Understanding story elements including how characters respond to major events or challenges
- Explaining how specific words and phrases express feelings and appeal to the senses; or determining the meaning of content-specific words within a text
- Comparing and contrasting key points or perspectives in two texts
- Developing and answering questions to demonstrate an understanding of key ideas and details in a text
- Applying grade-level phonics and word analysis skills to decode words

Writing

Students in 2nd grade should know and be able to:

- Engage in the writing process (plan, organize, strengthen writing through revising and editing)
- Organize writing with an introduction to the topic/text and provide a concluding statement or section; Use transition words to link and build connections between ideas, text, and events
- Elaborate with reasons, facts & examples, and detailed descriptions
- Include content specific words, descriptive words, and vivid examples of feelings, events and images
- Apply language conventions appropriate to purpose such as capitalization, punctuation and spelling
- Participate in shared and independent inquiry and writing projects



MATHEMATICS

Mathematics in 2nd grade is designed to support students in making sense of math, communicating mathematical ideas, and engaging in understanding and solving real-world problems. Students extend their understanding of place value to the hundreds place and use place value understanding to solve problems. Students also continue to work on their addition and subtraction skills, *flexibly and efficiently* adding and subtracting numbers through 20. They work to understand, represent, and solve problems involving addition and subtraction through 100, including those with money, data, and measurement. In 2nd grade, there is a strong focus on communicating our math ideas and persevering in solving authentic problems.

Students in 2nd grade should know and be able to:

- Develop accurate and efficient strategies for adding and subtracting within 20
- Understand, represent and solve a variety of problem types involving addition and subtraction
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract
- Explore, describe and analyze shapes and their attributes
- Represent and interpret data
- Measure and estimate lengths in standard units
- Communicate mathematical ideas and thinking in a variety of ways (words, pictures, models, equations)
- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others



ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT LEARNING

Literacy

- Encourage your child to read a book of their choice each day
- Ask about the books your child is reading
- Share your reading life with your child
- Talk with your child to expand their vocabulary (don't be afraid to use words they don't know, you can explain them)
- Model writing in the real world (such as grocery list, thank you notes, emails, journaling, activities on a calendar)
- Learn about an interesting topic with your child by reading books, looking online and exploring places together



Mathematics

- Encourage a growth mindset about mathematics
- Encourage students to use math in their everyday activities
- Talk with your child about all the ways you use math in your daily life
- Play board, card or dice games with your child (such as Uno, Monopoly, Yahtzee and Checkers)
- Create and solve your own story problems
- Measure and count as you cook and bake together

EDUCATION WORDS

Digit: Any of the symbols 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9.

Inquiry-based Learning: Inquiry promotes engagement, curiosity, and experimentation. Students are empowered to explore topics through questioning, investigation, and research.

Mathematical Fluency: Fluency includes accuracy, efficiency, and flexible use of strategies in solving math problems.

Performance Task: A real world task that requires students to apply their knowledge and skills that have been learned to show understanding.

Place Value: Every digit in a number has a place value based on its position in the number. (In the number 548, the digit 5 is in the hundreds place and its place value is 500. The digit 4 is in the tens place, and its place value is 40. The digit 8 is in the ones place, and its place value is 8.

Reading Fluency: Fluency includes accuracy, rate and expression when reading out loud.

Social and Emotional Learning: Learning to effectively manage emotions, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships and make responsible decisions.

Workshop Model: The workshop framework is designed to offer a simple and predictable environment. The workshop typically includes a mini-lesson (teacher led instruction), independent work time, small group instruction, individual conferring (teacher meets with student), and sharing.



QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

- What can I do to help my child succeed in school?
- How does my child work with others during group activities?
- What classroom activities seem to keep my child best engaged in learning?
- What kind of books is my child reading during independent reading time?
- What should my child be able to understand and talk about as a result of what they have learned?
- What topics is my child writing about?
- How does my child approach complex math tasks? What are some suggestions for me to encourage them in learning challenging content?
- How can I support a positive approach to learning?
- Is my child able to demonstrate to you that they understand what they are learning about? If not, what challenges are they facing?
- What are my child's overall strengths at this time?
- What are my child's overall challenges at this time?
- What specifically can I do at home to support my child's overall learning and growth?