

# Second Grade

Knowing the essential skills and strategies our kids will be learning in school helps us know how to support them all year. Find out, by subject, what your kids will be learning this year and read on for strategies to help them be successful students.

## Reading at School:

- Paying close attention to details, including illustrations and graphics, in stories and books to answer *who, what, where, when, why, and how* questions.
- Determining the lesson or moral of stories, fables, and folktales
- Using text features (e.g., captions, bold print, indexes) to locate key facts or information efficiently.
- Retelling key information or ideas from media or books read aloud

## Support Reading at Home:

Read with your child every day.

Second graders are moving beyond the work of sounding out every word, but they need to practice reading often to build fluency. When reading is fluent, more attention can be given to making meaning.

While reading is not a race, have your child focus on reading smoothly – sentence by sentence rather than word by word. Listen to your child read and encourage rereading for smoothness. Time practicing this skill yields big payoffs and is simple to do at home.

Choose books with your child that are interesting and not too hard, and don't forget that you can abandon texts that aren't fun or interesting. Use school and library resources to find engaging material that your child can practice with. Make sure to talk about the texts to keep the meaning more important than the speed – smooth reading is what helps our brains make meaning.



## Speaking and Listening at School:

- Taking part in conversations by linking his or her comments to the remarks of others and asking and answering questions to gather additional information or deepen understanding of the topic.



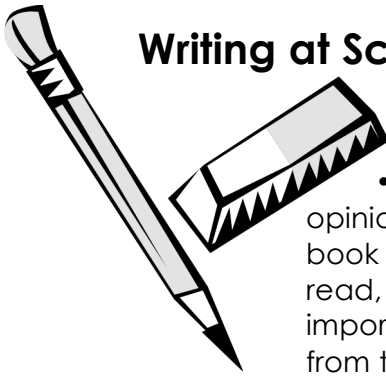
- Speaking clearly and in complete sentences in order to provide detail or clarification.
- Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text or other information presented orally.

## Support Speaking and Listening at Home:

Oral communication is a key way we know and understand one another. Building skill speaking and listening is important for all of our students. In second grade, students are encouraged to read aloud, share their writing with their peers and listen as others do the same.

Help build these skills for your student by encouraging him or her to read out loud to you, to recite a poem or read something written at school. Encourage eye contact and variation in speed and volume when sharing.

Grow listening skills by playing games about directions – or tell about your day in a mixed-up way, encouraging questions that help your child clarify understanding.



## Writing at School:

- Writing an opinion about a book he or she has read, using important details from the materials

to support that opinion.

- Writing stories that include a short sequence of events and include a clear beginning, middle, and end.
- Participating in shared research projects (e.g., read books on a single topic to produce a report)
- Producing, expanding, and rearranging sentences (e.g., the boy watched the movie"; "The little boy watched the movie"; "The action movie was watched by the little boy.")
- Determining the meaning of the new word formed when a known prefix or suffix is added to a known word (happy/unhappy; pain/painful/pain/less).

## Support Writing at Home:

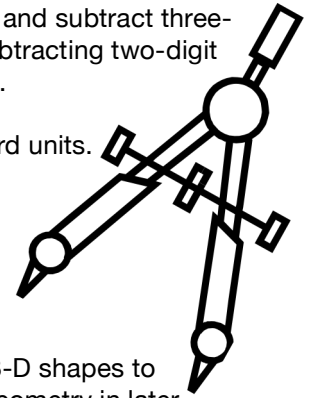
Second graders are ready to gain ease with using language for all kinds of communication. They need practice putting pencil to paper to make the words appear on the paper smoothly, but they are ready to write stories, descriptions, letters and instructions.

Work with your second grader on writing by having them help make lists, write letters and emails, and write down directions for things. As writing is used to communicate meaningful things to people they care about, it will become used more often – and as with all things – practice makes stronger.



## Math at School:

- Solving challenging addition and subtraction word problems with one or two steps (e.g., a “one-step” problem would be: “Lucy has 23 fewer apples than Julie. Julie has 47 apples. How many apples does Lucy have?”)
- Quickly and accurately adding with a sum of 20 or less (e.g., 11+8); quickly and accurately subtracting from a number 20 or less (e.g., 16-9); and knowing all sums of one-digit numbers from memory by the end of the year.
- Understanding what the digits mean in three-digit numbers (*place value*).
- Using understanding of place value to add and subtract three-digit numbers (e.g., 811-367); adding and subtracting two-digit numbers quickly and accurately (e.g., 77-28).
- Measuring and estimating length in standard units.
- Solving addition and subtraction word problems involving length (e.g. “The pen is 2 cm longer than the pencil. If the pencil is 7 cm long, how long is the pen?”)
- Building, drawing, and analyzing 2-D and 3-D shapes to develop foundations for area, volume, and geometry in later grades.



## Support Math at Home:

The three major math concepts students are responsible for learning in second grade are base-ten numeration and place-value, addition and subtraction facts and procedures and gaining facility with measurement.

You can reinforce place value concepts by counting with your kids by multiples, and by representing numbers in unique ways.

Addition and subtraction facts will be a main focus of math this year. Help your child gain ease with these through practice. Use a combination of flash cards and real world situations to reinforce the learning happening at school.

The best way to learn to measure is by doing it. Whenever there is a measuring task that needs to be done, invite your second grader to help. Compare your estimate with their answer and watch them grow!

## Science

Second grade science students refine their understanding of the natural world through investigation of the variation and change in living and non-living things. They explore how things respond to magnetic forces, the life cycles of living things, movement of the sun and moon and daily and seasonal temperature changes.

Support your child by helping them record the things they notice in charts and graphs as well as in journal form. Pay attention to patterns and record those too. Don't forget that pictures and diagrams are great science tools!