

Welcome to Second Grade!

In second grade, students make great strides in reading, writing, and math. Your child will learn to read fluently, use writing to communicate ideas, and learn how math is used in real world situations. This is a very exciting year!

Your child will learn a great deal this year, but second grade is about more than academics. In second grade, students become more confident and independent, and they develop important social skills.

In this guide you will find information that will help you help your child have a successful second grade year. Included in this guide are:

- ▶ Tips to help your child build his/her reading, writing, and math skills.
- ▶ Ways to help your child build social skills, make friends, and be more self-reliant.
- ▶ Information on the physical, intellectual, and emotional growth of second graders.

Your involvement and support are key to your child's success!



Learning in the Second Grade

Reading

In second grade, the focus is on reading for meaning—reading to understand and to remember. Second graders learn to recognize more words by sight, and they learn strategies to help them figure out new words.

Ways to Help at Home

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud, changing the tone of his/her voice for different characters.
- ▶ Help your child decode unfamiliar words and look up new words in a print or online dictionary.
- ▶ Discuss what your child is reading and ask questions such as, "What do you think will happen next?" "What would you do?" "How do you think that character felt?" "Did you like this book?"
- ▶ Most importantly, read to your child every day and have your child read to you.

Writing

In second grade, children start writing about different topics, experiences, and their opinions. They also practice finding and correcting their spelling and punctuation errors.

Ways to Help at Home

- ▶ Ask your child to write about something that was enjoyable or fun, such as a friend's birthday party, family outing, or vacation.
- ▶ Encourage your child to write a letter to a favorite relative, a get well message to a sick friend, and to make holiday greeting cards for family and friends.



Math

Second graders learn how to add and subtract two-digit numbers, and they work on learning addition and subtraction facts. Your second grader will also study money, measurement, and telling time.

Ways to Help at Home

- ▶ While your child is completing routine tasks such as getting ready for school, verbally quiz him/her on addition and subtraction facts (e.g., 9+1, 10-4). Be sure to keep it fun!
- ▶ Give your child a ruler to practice measuring objects around the house. When you're cooking, have your child help you read the recipe and measure ingredients.
- ▶ Let your child practice counting money using play or real money. Encourage him/her to pay attention when you check out at the grocery store. Try using the self-checkout for small items and let your child insert the cash.

Support Your Child

Second graders are learning many new skills, and they can become frustrated at times. If your child is feeling discouraged or frustrated, provide encouragement, keep a positive attitude, and be available to help.

If you have concerns about your child's progress, or if you are looking for more ways to help build your child's skills at home, talk to your child's teacher.



Shaping Social Skills

In second grade, children are developing the social skills they need to succeed in this grade, and beyond.

Making Friends

Second graders are social beings and having friends is very important.

Help your child improve his/her social skills by providing opportunities for your child to interact with other children in a variety of settings.

Building Understanding

Second graders are able identify and express their feelings. They are also beginning to understand how others might feel.

Encourage your child to talk about his/her feelings, and talk about your own feelings as well. For example, tell your child that you get frustrated when his/her toys haven't been picked up, and explain why.

Increasing Self-Confidence

Children who have self-confidence are better able to take on new challenges—and are generally more successful students.

Provide praise for positive effort and actions. Try to make the praise specific: "I like how you shared your new toy with your sister." Also provide constructive feedback and suggestions when your child could use some help or direction.

Growing Up: 2nd Grade

Your child will develop skills and grow in a number of ways during this important year.

Physical

Second graders begin to increase muscle strength and stamina.

This is a great time for your child to join a sports team or take dance or martial arts classes.

Intellectual

Their vocabulary is increasing, making it easier for second graders to express their ideas and engage in discussions.

Have conversations at dinnertime, and ask your child to tell you about his/her day, or about something specific that's happened.

Emotional

Second graders are often interested in doing everything for themselves, even when they need help.

When something is difficult, don't immediately swoop in to help. Let your child try to problem solve—and celebrate when he/she is successful.

"It is not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings."

Ann Landers



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Parent Involvement Guide