

Students in 2nd grade will gain more skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. They continue to learn and practice rules for matching sounds to letters that make up words, and they learn new concepts — such as words that share the same root (e.g., add and additional) — that help them figure out the meanings of new words. Writing will become an exciting way for your child to use newly learned words and phrases to express ideas. As they write and speak, 2nd graders will be more attentive to the formal and informal uses of English and will spell most words correctly in their writing

Skills Your Child Will Be Working On

- 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
- 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)
- 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
- 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/painless)

Learning Activity to Use at Home

READING ACTIVITY

Talk with your child to learn about your child’s interests like dogs, cats, jewelry making or even motorcycles. Go to the library to find several books on these topics and begin to share information about these topics with your child. If you need help locating appropriate books, the children’s librarian can provide help to locate books on the topic of interest. After reading each book together, make lists of new facts or information that was learned. Write down questions the child still has and look for more books that might add to the child’s collection of facts and information on the topic.

WRITING ACTIVITY

Talk to your child about how everyone has an opinion about lots of topics, such as favorite foods, interesting pets, scary movies, or fun activities to do on the weekend. To help your child develop their own opinions about an idea, work with your child to create a short book or paragraph to support their own opinion on an interesting topic. List 2-3 reasons to defend the opinion and include several drawings. Examples of interesting topic starters:

- 1) “I think the most unusual animal to have as a pet would be...”
- 2) “_____ is a hero because _____.”
- 3) “My parents should allow me to _____ because _____”

Once completed, have your child share the opinion book/paragraph with you and discuss if the reasons are convincing enough for you. Discuss with your child why or why not each reason is valid, and if not, what could make the reasons stronger.

Teacher and Parent Conferencing - Topics for ongoing conversations throughout the school year with your child’s teacher.

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In second grade, these include:

- Is your child reading on grade-level orally with accuracy and *fluency* to support comprehension
- Is your child building a foundation of knowledge through reading and listening to books in history/social studies, science, and other subjects
- Is your child writing *narratives* to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences

Ask to see a sample of your child’s work. Ask the teacher questions such as: Is this piece of work satisfactory? How could it be better? Is my child on track? How can I help my child improve or excel in this area? If my child needs extra support or wants to learn more about a subject, are there resources to help his or her learning outside the classroom?