

2nd Grade Mathematics

In 2nd grade, your child will build on last year's work and gain important new skills. One of the most important outcomes for the year is to add and subtract two-digit numbers quickly and accurately (e.g., 77-28). Another important goal in 2nd grade is to understand what the digits mean in a three-digit number such as 463 (namely, 463 is four hundreds, six tens, and three ones). Your child also will build expertise with solving addition and subtraction word problems. Mastering addition and subtraction at the 2nd grade level is important so that your child will not have to review and repeat this material in 3rd grade, when the study of multiplication, division, and fractions will start.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 2nd Grade

- 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 understandings 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

Keeping the conversation focused.

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 2nd grade, these include:

- Using understanding to place value to add and subtract
- Solving more challenging addition and subtraction word problems
- Measuring lengths, and solving word problems involving addition and subtraction of lengths

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?



Talking to
Your
Child's