



A PARENT'S GUIDE TO **Second Grade**



Sun Prairie Area
School District



Child Development

WE KNOW...

“Stages of growth and development follow a reasonably predictable pattern. Children and adolescents do not proceed through each stage at the same pace. Children and adolescents progress through the various aspects of development at their own rate. Growth is uneven.”

Source: *Yardsticks: Child and Adolescent Development Ages 4–14*, by Chip Wood



Physical Development

- Second graders have increased gross and fine motor skills.
- They can be restless, full of energy, in a rush, and in need of physical release.
- They play hard and tire quickly, doing better with several short play breaks versus one long break.

Social and Emotional Development

- Second graders are sometimes moody or pouty, and they may worry that no one likes them.
- They are caring and sensitive to others' feelings.
- They like to share humor and be silly.
- They enjoy imaginary adventures.
- They like to socialize during individual and group work.
- They may have a difficult time initiating work or play with others. Adult leadership with large-group games helps them mix and mingle.

Second-Grade Experience

Second graders will ...

ART

- Create works of art about events in home, school, or community life
- Use art vocabulary to express and describe preferences about artwork
- Make art or design with various materials and tools to explore personal interests
- Make connections to art from personal, contemporary, and historical lenses
- Actively incorporate The Studio Habits of Mind, a set of thinking dispositions utilized throughout the creative process
- Demonstrate safe procedures for using and cleaning art tools, equipment, and studio spaces
- 2nd grade media includes drawing, painting, collage, fiber, printmaking, ceramics, and 3D sculpture

HEALTH

- List ways to prevent communicable diseases
- Communicate knowledge of healthy and unhealthy behaviors to family members, trusted adults, or friends
- Encourage friends and family to make healthy choices
- Describe why it is important to seek health care

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Participate cooperatively and safely to improve fitness levels
- Perform motor skills while participating in vigorous physical activity
- Combine motor skills within levels, pathways, and travel during game play and physical activity
- Demonstrate responsible personal and social behavior in physical activity settings
- Demonstrate understanding and respect for differences among people in physical activity settings
- Demonstrate the physical skills necessary to perform classroom activities

MUSIC

- Sing with “head voice” in a tuneful and healthy way
- Remember short songs and sing them alone or with others
- Demonstrate a steady beat and various rhythms (and melodies) with their body and on various instruments
- Describe music and form opinions using appropriate vocabulary
- Move expressively in response to different styles of music
- Identify different sound characteristics, and names of common instruments and their roles in music
- Be quiet audience members and reflect on the music they heard
- Read and notate simple rhythms

GUIDANCE

- Use multiple dimensions of health (physical, social, environmental, and emotional) in everyday life
- Provide examples of situations when health-related decisions are needed to keep someone safe
- Use multiple intelligence
- Further regulate emotions
- Be mindful
- Demonstrate a growth mindset
- Learn how to prevent bullying

End-of-Year Expectations

Second graders will know how to ...

Family Learning Activities

Practice these strategies at home in your family's native language as well as in English.

	READING	WRITING	
LITERACY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retell stories and ask and answer questions about fictional characters • Identify main topics of nonfiction stories and ask and answer on topic questions • Understand story structure and point of view, and decode words and phrases • Use text features, identify text purpose, and determine meaning of words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write an opinion piece that introduces topics, supplies reasons to support the opinion, and provides a concluding statement or section • Write information pieces that include a topic, facts and definitions to develop those points, and a concluding statement or section • Write narrative pieces that retell either elaborated events or short sequences of events, include details of those events, and provide a sense of closure • Use the writing process to strengthen writing by editing and revising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read with your child and encourage your child to retell the story. Have fun reading by taking on the voices of different characters and changing your voices based on the mood of the book. • Ask your child questions about what they read. • Help your child be responsible for any homework, reading logs, or projects. • Practice writing through stories, letters, or poems and read them together. • Play word games.
MATH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent and solve addition and subtraction problems • Add and subtract fluently within 20 • Work with equal groups of objects to build a foundation for multiplication understanding • Use place value to help add and subtract • Measure in a standard length • Estimate measurements • Express time and money • Understand and interpret data 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play math games. • Challenge your child to solve problems in everyday situations at home. • Ask your child questions about time. • Encourage your child to use money both at home and in the community.
SCIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain structure and properties of matter • Test materials for their effectiveness in specific situations • Conducts investigations, makes observations, and records data • Describe the life process of a plant and how it spreads its seeds • Identify where water is on Earth and if it is solid or liquid • Provide evidence of Earth's events and how quickly or slowly they occur • Represent the shape of Earth and identify the land and bodies of water 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your child to be curious by asking questions and solving them. • Have conversations with your child about the world around them.
SOCIAL STUDIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulate that groups of people have different beliefs and live their daily lives in different ways (Culture) • Role-play how a democracy works (e.g., class voting) (Civics) • Hypothesize why people in one country trade goods with people in another country (Geography) • Demonstrate how technology is used on a daily basis for social or cultural purposes (History) • Differentiate between buyers (consumers) and sellers (producers), identifying the costs of everyday goods (milk, bread, fruit, vegetables, cheese) (Economics) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss events and their impact on the community. • Discuss voting. • Discuss where products you buy are made and how much they cost. • Talk about how and where you get information. • Use maps to help get you places. • Help your child understand the difference between a need and a want.



WE **welcome** OUR FAMILIES.

WE **honor** WHAT YOU BRING TO OUR LEARNING COMMUNITY.

WE WANT TO **partner** WITH YOU IN WAYS THAT HELP YOUR CHILD.

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