



# A PARENT'S GUIDE TO SECOND GRADE

*Curriculum Department  
Lee's Summit R-7 School District*



# Second Graders will...

## Literacy

- Apply grade level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words
- Determine meaning of words and phrases
- Read grade level text with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension
- Use comprehension strategies to understand a variety grade level texts
  - Use background knowledge
  - Ask and answer questions
  - Determine important ideas
  - Make inferences
  - Use sensory images
- Use the writing process to develop and strengthen writing
- Write narratives that describe actions, thoughts and feelings in a logical order and provides closure
- Write informational texts with a well developed topic, facts and a conclusion
- Write opinion pieces that name a topic, provide an opinion with reasons to support it and includes a sense of closure
- Apply conventions of standard English grammar and usage in writing
- Speak and listen effectively in multiple contexts

## Ways to Help at Home

- *Read with and to your child every day, listen to audio books.*
- *Visit the library and check out books regularly.*
- *Play word games.*
- *Point out interesting and unusual words.*
- *Share family stories and memories.*
- *Tell jokes and riddles.*
- *Encourage your child to retell stories and facts they've read.*
- *Ask questions when reading with your child to support their understanding.*
- *Encourage all forms of reading: graphic novels, comics, picture books, articles, wordless picture books.*
- *Create a writing toolbox at home. Fill it with drawing and writing materials.*
- *Write stories, letters, thank you notes, lists, recipes.*
- *Model reading and writing behavior you want to see from your child.*
- *Enjoy conversation with your child, talk to them about school, books, friends, interests, sports.*

## Mathematics

- Fluently add and subtract within 20 from memory (know addition and subtraction facts)
- Solve word problems by adding or subtracting numbers 1 to 100
- Understand the place value of 3-digit numbers
- Add and subtract 3-digit numbers
- Measure lengths of objects in standard units such as inches or centimeters
- Solve word problems involving length
- Find the value of combinations of dollar bills, quarters, dimes, nickels, and pennies
- Tell and write time to the nearest 5 minutes using a.m. and p.m.
- Work with equal groups of objects to build a foundation for understanding multiplication
- Solve problems and draw conclusions using line plots, picture graphs, and bar graphs
- Divide shapes into halves, thirds, and fourths, understanding that equal shares may not have the same shape. *We only use the fraction words (one-half) in second grade, not the symbols (1/2).*

## Ways to Help at Home

- *Ask your child questions about time.*
- *Encourage your child to use money both at home and in the community.*
- *Play math games:*
  - *I'm thinking of a number. It has 5 tens, 3 hundreds and 4 ones. What's my number?*
  - *Using a deck of cards, deal 2 cards and ask your child to add the numbers as fast as they can.*
  - *Using a deck of cards, identify a target number between 1 and 20, deal a card, and ask your child to either add or subtract to obtain that number.*
- *Create addition and subtraction problems for your child using life situations.*
- *Ask your child to measure the length of certain objects. (Which is shorter? Which is heavier? How do you know?)*

# Second Graders will...

## Science

- Show how the shape of an object helps it function as needed to solve a given problem
- Compare the strength and weaknesses of objects to see how each performs
- Describe and classify different kinds of materials by their observable properties
- Analyze data obtained from testing different materials to determine which materials have the properties that are best suited for an intended purpose
- Provide evidence that Earth events can occur quickly or slowly
- Compare solutions designed to slow or prevent wind or water from changing the shape of the land
- Develop a model to represent the shapes and kinds of land and bodies of water in an area and identify where water is found on Earth and that it can be solid or liquid
- Plan and conduct investigations on the growth of plants when growing conditions are altered (e.g., dark versus light, water versus no water)
- Develop a simple model that mimics the function of an animal in dispersing seeds or pollinating plants

## Ways to Help at Home

- *Grow plants at home with your child.*
- *Ask your child to draw an invention and explain its structure and function.*
- *Point out items made from different materials and ask why that material was used.*
- *Read an age appropriate book about the Grand Canyon.*
- *Go outside to find seeds like 'whirly birds', dandelions, apple seeds etc... ask them how seeds travel away from their parents and why.*
- *Place a lima bean in a wet paper towel inside a sandwich bag and watch it grow.*
- *Catch bugs and observe them.*
- *Take nature walks and ask questions to inspire curiosity.*
- *Start a bug collection.*

## Social Studies

- Engage in the study of geography as it relates to the cultural, economic, and political characteristics of the regions of both Missouri and the United States.
- Examine and evaluate multiple sources of information using an inquiry model
- Explore various regions through the disciplines of history, civics, and economics
- Generate and research compelling questions such as:
  - What does it mean to act as a responsible citizen in our community and nation?
  - What are some inventions that helped change the way people live?
  - What are the responsibilities of government leaders?
  - How have the lives of Native Americans changed over time?
  - How do we describe our region?
  - How are community wants and needs met?

## Ways to Help at Home

- *Have conversations with your child about how what it means to be a responsible and engaged citizen in their community and country.*
- *Look for opportunities to identify and discuss the characteristics and differences between various regions of the state and nation and how these characteristics and differences benefit them - resources, crops, travel, entertainment, outdoor activities, etc.*
- *Talk to your child about how people used to live in the region and compare it to how people live now.*
- *Point out needs in the community and how those needs are met - public services, stores, parks and recreation, etc.*
- *Encourage your child to ask questions and find answers to their questions.*

# *Helping Your Child Learn*

- Provide a quiet place for your child to study.
- Show interest in your child's school activities.
- Make school a first priority for your child.
- Read with your child.
- Children learn from example. Let your child see you reading and figuring out real life problems.
- Help your child with assignments.
- Encourage your child to engage in challenging tasks and persevere in completing them.
- Talk with your child. Ask your child what they like and dislike about school. Find out if your child is excited or disappointed about their day.
- Talk with your child's teacher about your child's academic and social/emotional progress.
- Limit the amount of time your child spends on video games, the internet, and television.

