

A Guide to Standards-Based Instruction for Parents & Guardians



This guide provides a family-friendly overview of what your child will learn by the end of 2nd grade in mathematics and English language arts/literacy, in an easy-to-understand format.

2nd
GRADE

Why Are Academic Standards Important?

Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students are prepared for success after high school. The standards provide an important first step — establish a clear, consistent roadmap for what every student should know and be able to do in Math and English language arts from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed. They also will help your child develop critical thinking skills that will prepare them for college and careers.

English Language Arts & Literacy

Key Ideas & Details	Craft & Structure	Integration of Knowledge & Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Students ask and answer questions about a text to show they understand key details.</i>• <i>Students recount stories and determine the central message.</i>• <i>Students identify the main topic of nonfiction paragraphs/passages.</i>• <i>Students describe how characters in a story respond to events and challenges.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Students determine the meaning of key words.</i>• <i>Students describe the overall structure of a story; the purpose of beginning, middle, and end.</i>• <i>Students use text structure in reading. (Captions, bold print, glossaries, etc.)</i>• <i>Students understand differences in points of view.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Students gain information from a combination of words and illustrations.</i>• <i>Students describe how reasons support specific points an author makes in a text.</i>• <i>Students compare and contrast similar stories/texts.</i>

Talking to
your child's
teacher

When talking with your child's teacher, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 2nd grade, these include:

- ★ Reading grade-level books and stories with understanding and fluency
- ★ Building a foundation of knowledge through reading and listening to books in history/social studies, science, and other subjects

Mathematics

Operations & Algebraic Thinking

- *Students use strategies to add and subtract within 20*
- *Students determine whether a group of objects is odd or even.*
- *Students use repeated addition to find totals (foundation for multiplication)*

Number & Operations in Base Ten

- *Students understand 3-digit numbers as a combination of ones, tens, and hundreds.*
- *Students add and subtract fluently within 100.*
- *Students use models and strategies to add and subtract with 1000.*

Measurement & Data

- *Students estimate and measure the length of objects.*
- *Students write time from analog and digital clocks.*
- *Students solve word problems involving money.*
- *Students draw picture graphs and bar graphs to represent data.*

Geometry

- *Students recognize and draw shapes based on description.*
- *Students partition shapes in halves, thirds, and quarters.*

Prioritized topics in 2nd grade Mathematics include:

- **Using understanding of 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.**

**Talking
to your
child's
teacher**

Helping Your Child at Home

Try to create a quiet place for your child to read and/or study, and carve out time every day for your child to concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 minutes or so while he or she reads or to ask them what they are learning about in class. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics. Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

English Language Arts & Literacy

- Read at home every day and assist your child by reading every other paragraph. To find recommendations of books for your child to read, visit www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf.
- Have your child write letters to family members or friends.

Mathematics

Look for “word problems” in real life. Some 2nd grade examples might include:

- When saving for a purchase, compare the cost of the item to the amount of money you have; then ask your child to determine how much more money he or she needs to buy the item.
- Play “draw the shape.” For example, ask your child to draw a hexagon with one side longer than the others, or ask him or her to shade in a quarter of a rectangle.