

# Parent Guide

## Second Grade

Reading Public Schools  
Reading, MA 01867



This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of 2nd grade in mathematics and English language arts/literacy. It focuses on the key skills your child will learn in these subjects, which will build a strong foundation for success in the other subjects he or she studies throughout the school year. This guide is based on the new Massachusetts State Frameworks. These K–12 standards are informed by the highest state standards from across the country. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined in these standards, he or she will be well prepared for third grade.

### A sample of what your child will be working on in SECOND GRADE:

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#### Mathematics:

Students will extend their understanding of place value to the hundreds place. They will use this place value understanding to solve word problems, including those involving length and other units of measure. Students will continue to work on their addition and subtraction skills, quickly and accurately adding and subtracting numbers up through 20 and also working with numbers up through 100. They will also build a foundation for understanding fractions by working with shapes and geometry. Activities in these areas will include:

- Solving addition and subtraction word problems with one or two steps  
Example: 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  
Example:  $11+8=19$
- Quickly and accurately subtracting from a number 20 or less  
Example:  $16-9=7$
- Understanding what the digits mean in a three-digit number  
Example: 325 is 3 hundreds, 2 tens, and 5 ones
- Adding and subtracting three-digit numbers  
Example:  $811-367=444$
- Measuring and estimating lengths using units in both the metric and customary systems  
Example: Measuring an object in centimeters
- Drawing and analyzing 2-D and 3-D shapes to develop foundations for area, volume, and geometry in later grades  
Example: Drawing a square and discussing its sides and angles

## English Language Arts:

Students will continue to build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. They will think, talk, and write about what they read in a variety of texts, such as stories, books, articles, and other sources of information. In their writing, students will learn how to develop a topic and strengthen their skills by editing and revising. Activities in these areas will include:

- Reading grade-level books and stories with understanding and fluency
- Paying close attention to details, including illustrations and graphics, in stories and books
- Determining the lesson or moral of stories, fables, and folktales
- Writing narratives that include a short sequence of events and include a clear beginning, middle, and end
- Writing an informative piece about a topic using important details
- Writing an opinion about a topic using important details to support the opinion
- 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
- Determining the meaning of a new word formed when a known prefix or suffix is added to a known word

## Tips for Second Grade Families to Support Students at Home

Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate. Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:



## Mathematics:

1. 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 whether or not you have enough money.
  - When measuring your child’s height, ask how many inches he or she has grown since the very first measurement.
  - Play “draw the shape.” For example, ask your child to draw a pentagon with one side longer than the others or ask him or her to shade in a quarter of a rectangle.
2. Play math games with your child. For example, “I’m thinking of a number. It has 5 tens, 3 hundreds, and 4 ones. What is the number? 354.” Or, using a deck of cards, deal two cards and ask your child to add the two numbers. You can also identify a target number and ask your child to either add or subtract to obtain that target number (use a target of 20 or less).
3. Have your child explain the relationship between different numbers without counting. For example, 147 is 47 more than 100 and 3 less than 150.
4. Have your child tell time to the nearest 5 minutes using an analog clock.
5. Practice math facts regularly.
6. Have your child use a ruler or tape measure to measure objects to the nearest centimeter or inch.
7. Encourage your child to stick with it whenever a problem seems difficult. This will help your child see that everyone can learn math.
8. Praise your child when he or she makes an effort and share in the excitement when he or she solves a problem or understands something for the first time.

## English Language Arts:

1. Provide time and space for your child to read daily. This reading time should be free from distractions such as television.
2. Encourage your child to read independently and to younger siblings, cousins, or other children you know.
3. Encourage your child to explain what he or she has just read.
4. Ask your child what topics, events, or activities he or she likes. Then look for books, magazines, or other materials about those topics that would motivate your child to read.
5. It is also helpful when your child sees other people reading at home. You could share what you have read.
6. Start a family book club. Let different members of the family pick the book. This could be a good way to enjoy quality family time while experiencing the joy of reading together!
7. Be sure your child has a library card. Children should select books they are interested in to develop a passion for reading. Many libraries have book clubs and family activities that make reading fun for the entire family.
8. Use technology to help build your child's interest in reading. There are several websites where students can read books or articles online. The computer will help with words the student cannot read independently. Libraries also have computers students can use to access those sites. Feel free to ask a librarian for suggestions.
9. Have your child select three things they want to include in a story. Make up a story that includes those three things.
10. Make a family book that is a collection of stories: favorite stories retold generation after generation or stories of family events.
11. Have your child write a thank you note or letter to family members or friends.
12. Play word games such as Scrabble Junior, Boggle, Word Concentration, etc.
13. Encourage your child to bring a notebook whenever they go on family outings. Whether it's to grandma's house, a soccer game, or restaurant, there will be plenty to notice, wonder, and write about.

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