

Common Second-Grade Milestones

Reading, writing, talking, and playing help your child grow and learn in many ways. While you're home together, watch for some of the key milestones in growing second-grade readers. On the back, you'll find ideas for supporting these literacy developments at home.

Language

Breaking Down Words

- ▶ Figure out what words they don't recognize sound like by breaking the word down into syllables or sounding out letter sounds they recognize.
- ▶ Figure out word meanings by finding clues in the sentence or finding the root of the word (such as *add* in *addition*).
- ▶ Understand synonyms (*cold* and *freezing*) and antonyms (*cold* and *hot*).
- ▶ Point out when words rhyme (such as *cat* and *bat*).

Talking About Texts

- ▶ Retell the beginning, middle, and end of a story.
- ▶ Talk about a text's main idea and describe details.
- ▶ Say what they like about a book and make reading recommendations to friends.

Reading

Becoming Strong Readers

- ▶ Pick both fiction and nonfiction books on topics that interest them.
- ▶ Ask and answer questions about texts they read.
- ▶ Learn new words while reading on their own.

Exploring Fiction

- ▶ Identify and contrast characters in a story.
- ▶ Connect a story to their own lives.
- ▶ Figure out the lesson, or moral, of a story.

Exploring Nonfiction

- ▶ Pull important information from graphs, captions, diagrams, sidebars, and charts.
- ▶ Connect and compare information they read in one book to another.
- ▶ Figure out the main idea of a text and point out how the author makes that clear.

Writing

Writing With Purpose

- ▶ Write for different purposes: giving opinions, providing information, or telling a story.
- ▶ Create a story that flows from one event to another in an order that makes sense.
- ▶ Describe characters' actions, thoughts, and feelings.
- ▶ Develop a beginning, middle, and end to a story.
- ▶ Introduce topics or opinions, and use facts to develop their points.



For Summer 2020 Use Only

Literacy Grows at Home

Children also become stronger readers the more time they spend reading. That includes choosing their own books and rereading favorites over and over again. Seeing you read encourages them, too, as does having books and magazines available to explore.

Making the Most of Read-Aloud Time

Your child is learning to read independently. But reading aloud remains just as key! Make sure to read with expression, and don't be afraid to ham it up! Use different voices, and don't try to be perfect! If you make a mistake, correct it. You'll show your child that going back to get it right is part of being a good reader.

Take your time! You need not always complete a book in one sitting. Your child will look forward to finding out more when you return to read another part of the book.

Your Independent Reader

Your child may already love to explore reading on his or her own, or may need encouragement. Invite your child to choose a new book, revisit a book you have read together, or finish a book you may have started as a read-aloud.

When school is in session, ideally a child will spend 20 minutes per day or more reading independently in school and an equal amount of time reading at home. Today, reading at home becomes even more important. Split up the time or binge-read—just get those eyes on the page!



Making Connections

As important as reading time is, so is talking about what your child reads. Conversations can happen anytime—while you cook, fold laundry, or share a meal. Bond with your child about events and people in books that remind you of events and people from your own lives.

Literacy Builders

Encourage your child to use reading as a springboard into other enjoyable literacy-building activities like these.

KEEP A JOURNAL Create a reader's journal using a notebook or stapled together paper for your child to jot down thoughts about his or her daily reading. Your child can include new and interesting words, sentences and ideas, drawings with captions, and special notes that he or she may want to share later with family or friends.

CONNECT AND CONSIDER Help your child connect via phone or social media with classmates who read the same book. Get the conversation started by encouraging them to share what they liked best, what surprised them, and how themes, such as courage or kindness, come across in the book.

FANTASTIC FACTS Have your child identify cool details or surprising facts he or she has learned from reading and use them to create a poster or collage. With your help, your child can also go beyond the books he or she has read to find related facts on the topics on the Internet.

QUESTION THE CHARACTER Invite your child to become an expert on a favorite character, taking notes from the book as needed or writing his or her own description of the character, including best qualities and most important actions. Then your child, acting as the character, can answer any questions that family members want to ask about the character's life and actions.

