

# Parents' Guide to Student Success



This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of 2nd grade in mathematics and English language arts/literacy. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined in these standards, he or she will be well prepared for 3rd grade.

## 2ND GRADE

### Why Are Academic Standards Important?

Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in college and the workforce. Standards provide an important first step — a clear roadmap for learning for teachers, parents, and students. 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 him or her for college and career.

## English Language Arts & Literacy

### A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 2nd Grade

- Paying close attention to details, including illustrations and graphics, in stories and books to answer *who, what, where, when, why, and how* questions
- Determining the lesson or moral of stories, fables, and folktales
- Using text features (e.g., captions, bold print, indexes) to locate key facts or information efficiently
- Writing an opinion about a book he or she has read, using important details from the materials to support that opinion
- Writing stories that include a short sequence of events and include a clear beginning, middle, and end
- 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
- Retelling key information or ideas from media or books read aloud
- Producing, expanding, and rearranging sentences (e.g., "The boy watched the movie"; "The little boy watched the movie"; "The action movie was watched by the little boy")
- Determining the meaning of the new word formed when a known prefix or suffix is added to a known word (happy/unhappy; pain/painful/less)

### Talking to Your Child's Teacher

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, 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

## A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 2nd Grade

- Solving challenging addition and subtraction word problems with one or two steps (e.g., a “one-step” problem would be: “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 (e.g.,  $11 + 8$ ); quickly and accurately subtracting from a number 20 or less (e.g.,  $16 - 9$ ); and knowing all sums of one-digit numbers from memory by the end of the year
- Understanding what the digits mean in three-digit numbers (*place value*)
- Using understanding of place value to add and subtract three-digit numbers (e.g.,  $811 - 367$ ); adding and subtracting two-digit numbers quickly and accurately (e.g.,  $77 - 28$ )
- Solving addition and subtraction word problems involving length (e.g., “The pen is 2 cm longer than the pencil. If the pencil is 7 cm long, how long is the pen?”)
- Building, drawing, and analyzing 2-D and 3-D shapes to develop foundations for area, volume, and geometry in later grades

### TALKING TO YOUR CHILD’S TEACHER

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 2nd grade, these 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

## Help Your Child Learn at Home

Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time *every day* when your child can concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. 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](http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf).
- Have your child write a thank you note or letter 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.

For more information, the full standards are available at [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org).



*everychild.onevoice.*®

**National Office:** 1250 N Pitt Street • Alexandria, VA 22314 • Toll-Free: (800) 307-4PTA (4782) • [PTA.org](http://PTA.org) • [info@pta.org](mailto:info@pta.org)

© 2012 PTA All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A. (9/12) • **PTA** and *everychild.onevoice.*® are registered service marks of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.