



A QUICK
OVERVIEW OF
SECOND GRADE
COMMON CORE
STANDARDS

SECOND GRADE

Parents of second graders will see a fair number of changes, and new expectations, in classroom work under the new learning standards. For students to be successful, teachers and parents need to be strong partners and have a clear understanding of the learning goals.

EXAMPLES OF

skills second graders should learn under Common Core

Second grade reading skills:

- Perfecting **decoding** (using patterns to read words and decipher separate sounds) and **fluency** (reading quickly and accurately, and reading aloud with expression) skills.
- Reading both fiction (stories, poems, early literature) and nonfiction (history, social studies, science, technical texts)—and generally tackling tougher material. Reading benchmarks that begin in second grade continue through third grade. Second graders should get all the help they need from adults.
- Using reading comprehension skills to build a knowledge bank. With every poem, story, passage or book read, there's a main point, message or key fact (or two) that second graders learn, relate to their life and prior knowledge and "bank" for future use.

Second grade writing skills:

- Writing compound sentences, using descriptive words and looking up new words.
- Practicing three kinds of writing—opinion, informative and narrative—and writing full-sentence introductions and conclusions for each.
- Getting familiar with the four steps of writing: prewriting (reading and gathering ideas), writing a first draft, revising their work and making final edits.

Second grade math skills

- Adding and subtracting easily up to 100, including solving word problem. Addition and subtraction problems up to 1,000.
- Understanding three-digit numbers represent 1s, 10s, and 100s; skip counting by 5s, 10s, and 100s to 1,000; comparing two three-digit numbers using $<$, $>$ and $=$ symbols.
- Partitioning circles and rectangles into two, three or four equal shares and describing the shares using the words halves, thirds, and fourths or quarters.

Learning

AT HOME

- **Play store!** Gather canned food, toys, books—and put prices on them. Then, use play money to go shopping. Take turns being the cashier and customer.
- Include writing in **children's imaginative games**. Have children write a menu and take orders while playing restaurant. Police officers write tickets. Robbers create and follow maps of the bank.
- Model patience with homework. Especially at first, children (and parents) may feel confused by new homework. When parents set the example, children learn to work hard, be persistent and stay positive.

See skills

IN ACTION

- Go to Milestones.GreatKids.org to watch videos of second graders demonstrating strong reading, writing, and math skills under the new standards.