

Parents' Guide to Student Success in *English Language Arts* Second 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.

Here Are Some Things 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.
- Writing informational reports.
- 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").
- Spelling correctly and applying phonics skills when reading unknown words.



Keeping the Conversation Focused:

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In Second Grade, these include:

- Fluency: Mastering Phonics Skills and Sight Words
- Comprehension
- Writing

Help Your Child Learn at Home

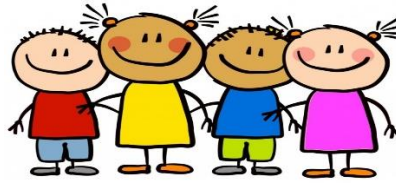
Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working 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:

- Read to and/or with your child daily.
- Have your child write about what they have read.
- Utilize a word of the day/week to enhance vocabulary.
- Practice sight words daily using flashcards.

Resource: <http://www.pta.org/parents/>

Second Grade

Nine Week Checkpoints for Parents and Students



Helpful Websites	
www.i-ready.com www.myon.com www.readworks.org	
First Nine Weeks	Second Nine Weeks
<p><i>Students should know and be able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text. • Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words (long and short vowel sounds, vowel teams, two syllable words with long vowels, prefixes and suffixes) • Read taught sight words • Fluently read grade level texts • Write narrative stories 	<p><i>Students should know and be able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retell stories • Determine the central message, lesson, or moral of a story • Identify the main topic of a multi-paragraph text • Identify the main idea of specific paragraphs within the text • Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words (long and short vowel sounds, vowel teams, two syllable words with long vowels, prefixes and suffixes) • Read taught sight words • Fluently read grade level texts • Write informational reports/essays
Third Nine Weeks	Fourth Nine Weeks
<p><i>Students should know and be able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges • Describe the connection between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text • Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words (long and short vowel sounds, vowel teams, two syllable words with long vowels, prefixes and suffixes) • Read taught sight words • Fluently read grade level texts • Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons 	<p><i>Students should know and be able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare and contrast two or more versions of the same story • Compare and contrast the most important points presented by two texts on the same topic • Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words (long and short vowel sounds, vowel teams, two syllable words with long vowels, prefixes and suffixes) • Read taught sight words • Fluently read grade level texts • Write narratives, informational reports/essays, and opinion pieces