

Parent Expectations for Second Grade Literacy

Second Grade is a critical year for budding readers writers:

- Transitional year from learning to read to reading to learn.
- Come to school with a variety of literacy skills and confidence levels.

Summer Reading Effects:

- If the student was a fluent reader at the end of first grade and who spent time reading throughout summer vacation, he/she will pick up where they left off.
- Those students who did not read over summer vacation will have lost some fluency and will need extra help to catch up.

By second grade students realize that they all should be good readers:

- Those who aren't reading well know it.
- Without instructional assistance to get them back on track, the academic problems of poor readers will mushroom into larger problems.

Second graders are eager to please adults and classmates:

- They love to be selected to display their work.
- They are eager to share their work with family and friends.

What to Expect:

- Most second graders should make significant leaps in reading and writing.
- Most second graders should be readers.
- They can independently read longer books.
- They can begin to read chapter books independently.
- They like to choose their own books; with instruction they can select books on their own level,
- Second graders can puzzle out difficult words by using different word strategies; suspending the meaning of the story as they figure out the word.
- Second graders writing skills should progress at the same rate as their reading improvements.
- Second graders will incorporate strategies from familiar books into their writing.
- They will begin to imitate their favorite authors or make use of intriguing writing strategies; dialogue or sound effects.
- Most second graders eagerly attempt to write in many genres.

Developing Literacy Habits

Second graders must continue to read a lot:

- They should read a longer book or several chapters **every day**.
- It is still essential that parents/teachers read aloud to second graders **every day**.
- They should read fiction and non-fiction.
- Most of this reading should be done independently.

When reading aloud to second graders:

- Choose books that are above the second graders independent reading level.
- This allows them to acquire new vocabulary.
- Helps them to develop syntactic awareness.
- Contains more complex sentence structures than does most spoken language.

By the end of second grade students should:

- Recognize features of different reading and writing genres.
- Compare works by different authors within a genre.
- Firm up their understanding of the organizing structures of the different genres.
- **Accountable Talk** includes: building ideas as a group, arguing respectfully and logically with one another, attending carefully to the language of texts.
- Present facts backed by details within an obvious organizational framework.
- **Understand and use important writing techniques:**
 - Prewriting
 - First drafts
 - Making additions, taking out extraneous facts, reorganizing, clarifying meaning, and using descriptive details.
 - Rely less on drawing to support their writing.
 - Produce much longer texts and write a lot on a single topic.
- Second graders will often seek out and use comments from their classmates, teachers and other adults to improve their writing.
- They can also give constructive feedback to their peers.

Reference book for finding recommended reading level titles:

Books to Build on: A Grade-by-Grade Resource Guide for Parents and Teachers (Core Knowledge Series)
by E.D. Hirsch, Jr.