

# Grade 2 at Ellis School

## Home-School Connection

Second graders might be more serious than they were as a first grader. They are probably more social too! Teachers in this grade find that their students like to be right and do things correctly - erasers are regularly used! Second graders like to play with their friends, but enjoy time alone too and increasingly want to solve problems for themselves. At school they tend to work hard after they begin a task. It is expected that they will be quite helpful in doing chores around the house.

Second graders are curious investigators. Solving problems is a challenge! They like to know what is coming next so routines and structure are important, both at home and at school.

As a second grader, your child continues to build vocabulary and the ability to "sound out" words using reading decoding skills. They learn to use a variety of strategies to make meaning of words they are reading. Once they have made sense of the words, they develop a deeper understanding of what they are reading including: the author's purpose and message, understanding the characters and their motives, and compare and contrast the elements of fiction and non-fiction. They build on their ability to write and use more formal English including proper spelling. Please continue to read with your child as this is essential to continuing success in school and second graders love to be read to.

You can help your child in mathematics by making sure they master their math facts for addition and subtraction. During the school year they will be learning more about place value in the hundreds ( $537 = 5 \text{ hundreds} + 3 \text{ tens} + 7 \text{ ones}$ ), and using this information to solve word problems. Second graders enjoy using manipulatives - concrete examples are helpful.

### **Social-Emotional Development**

- Frequent friendship shifts
- Anxiety over "what if"
- Student benefits from knowledge of home school communication and connection
- Moods can change frequently throughout the day
- Likes a couple choices rather than commands
- Exaggerates small incidents

<p><b>Language Arts</b></p> <p>By the end of the school year, your child can:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ask and Answer the 5 W ? after reading a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade text</li> <li>2. Read 85 words per minute</li> <li>3. Know and apply grade level phonics</li> <li>4. Write opinions, nonfiction and narrative texts focusing on a topic at a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade level with support</li> <li>5. Participate in collaborative conversations</li> <li>6. Retell key information or ideas from media or books read aloud</li> </ol>	<p><b>Suggestion for home activities in language arts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read EVERY DAY with your child. Create a family reading time where everyone reads and shares information</li> <li>• Stop and talk about your own thinking when reading with kids to promote book talk and thinking about what you're reading</li> <li>• Have your child write a thank you note to a family member or friend</li> <li>• Visit the library or bookstore and have your child practice selecting "just right" books</li> <li>• Talk about the reading and writing you need for different tasks whether at home or in your workplace</li> <li>• Read signs together as you're driving or play word games as you travel</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mathematics</b></p> <p>By the end of the school year, your child can:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Know all addition and subtraction facts through sum of 20 automatically</li> <li>2. Solve 2 step word problems</li> <li>3. Understand time to 5 minutes</li> <li>4. Understand place value in order to add and subtract accurately within 1000</li> <li>5. Partition shapes to halves, thirds and fourths</li> <li>6. Measure and estimate length in standard units</li> <li>7. Build, draw and analyze 2-D and 3-D shapes</li> </ol>	<p><b>Suggestions for home activities in mathematics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Put coins on a table, if child can count them, they can keep it</li> <li>• Talk about "word problems" in everyday life such as the cost of an item compared with the money a child has available to purchase that item</li> <li>• Use fractions when negotiating unwanted foods</li> <li>• Maintain a height chart to measure your child's growth. Figure out how much your child has grown using inches</li> <li>• Talk about shapes in your house, as you drive and as you visit stores, playgrounds, etc.</li> <li>• Use money to talk with your child about place value (pennies, dimes, dollars)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Science Topics</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wetlands/Amphibians</li> <li>2. Rock Cycle/ Earth's Surface/ Landforms</li> <li>3. Farm plants/ cities vs towns ( manmade vs natural)</li> <li>4. States of matter</li> <li>5. Inventors/ careers</li> </ol>	<p><b>Suggestions for home activities in science</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cook together</li> <li>• Make observation about everything ( use 5 senses)</li> <li>• Talk about items that are liquid and solid.</li> <li>• Talk about the changes in matter when you freeze something and then let it thaw.</li> <li>• Plant a terrarium or maintain an aquarium and discuss the interaction of plants and animals.</li> </ul>

**Social Studies Topics**

1. U. S. Constitution
2. Columbus/ Martin Luther King Jr/ Rosa Parks/ Pilgrims
3. Comparing Cultures
4. Map Skills
5. American Symbols

**Suggestions for home activities in social studies**

- Discuss your family traditions and heritage
- Talk about your neighborhood, your community and how your family is a part
- Remind your child about the school holidays that celebrate events in our country such as Veterans' Day, MLK Day and others
- Talk about current events in our community, nation and world as appropriate for a second grader