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## **Teacher Created Materials**

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# Dear Family,



This is an exciting year for your second grader! Your child is well on the way to becoming a reader. He or she has probably mastered many basic math skills. Second graders are ready to explore science and social studies beyond what they have learned about in earlier grades.

Your second grader has had experiences with other children, including dealing with others on the playground and in the lunchroom. Those experiences make the adjustment to second grade easier. Now, you can expect your child to be a bit more independent. He or she may be building friendships that last a lifetime. Also, you have no doubt learned during the previous year how important it is to build a partnership with the teacher. Know that you can go to your child's teacher for support and to ask questions.

This parent guide will give you more parent-tested ideas for helping your child learn. From tips for organizing school materials to strategies for including learning opportunities in your busy day, you'll find some ideas that are just right for you.



## One last thought...

Keep in mind that your second grader still needs your involvement in much of his or her learning. You are still the most important teacher in your child's life. But don't forget to have fun along the way!

# Top 10

## Things Your Second Grader Needs to Know

1. **Word strategies** for reading words (e.g., short and long vowels, common vowel teams—*ea*, *ee*, and *ie*)
2. **Literature** from around the world (e.g., folktales, fairy tales, classic myths)
3. **Writing** from a variety of genres (e.g., letters, journal entries, book reports)





4. **Addition and subtraction** within 20
5. **Place value**
6. **Time and money**
7. **Life cycles** of plants and animals
8. Materials in **solid, liquid, and gas forms**
9. **Time lines and ancestors**, as well as important heroes
10. Different **types of governments in the country**

# Science

## All Around

During this school year, second graders will more formally explore the world. They will understand how simple machines affect movement. They will study plant and animal life cycles. They will learn about the Earth's resources. Your second grader will realize that science is all around!



*These activities will help your child to think scientifically and critically.*

### **Find It!**

When out and about with your child, look for examples of Earth's resources being used to make other things. For example, plants provide the food we eat, trees provide building materials for our homes, and oil from deep inside Earth makes gas for cars.

## Build It!

Teeter totters, ramps, wheels and axles (on cars), and pulleys (on bikes) are all simple machines. Talk about simple machines with your child. Then, build one together out of blocks. It can be as simple as a toy car sliding down a ramp.

## Plant It!

Plant something simple with your child and watch it grow. Sugar snap peas are easy to plant and they taste great! Discuss why the plant needs water and sun.

## Research It!

Go on a nature walk with your second grader and spot as many animals as you can. Then, have your child pick his or her favorite animal from the walk. Go to the library and research the animal's life cycle together.



## One last thought...

This is a great time to start a collection of items related to science such as rocks, soil samples, shells, pressed leaves, or photographs of favorite animals.

