Academic Growth Charts Second Grade

Adult & Child

Therapeutic Foster Care Licensing Program

Academic Benchmarks

* **States across the country are implementing new standards for student achievement, designed to better prepare young people for careers and college.**
  * **These academic benchmarks are meant to help parents understand the course material for each grade.**
  * **They are based on the standards in most of the country and are intended as a general resource for parents, not as a comprehensive breakdown of the contents of your child's curriculum.**
* http://www.parenttoolkit.com/

Second Grade Overview

* **Your 2nd grader will be learning to understand and discuss information from a range of sources and he/she will also begin learning to express him/herself effectively in writing.**
* **He/She'll continue to build upon the math skills he/she learned in 1st grade.**

English/Language Arts

* In 2nd grade, children deepen their understanding of letters and sounds and learn many new strategies for figuring out words and making sense of what they read.
* They engage with a rich variety of texts including stories, fables, folktales, poems, and articles.
* 2nd graders write frequently, not only to describe personal experiences, but also to show what they have learned and understand.
* In writing and speaking, 2nd graders practice expressing their thinking clearly and accurately, as they learn the conventions of written and spoken English.

Reading

* Vocabulary
  * Understand many new words and use strategies for determining the meaning of unknown words.
* Phonemic Awareness
  * Use phonics and word analysis skills to read unfamiliar words.
* Paying Attention to Details
  * Pay close attention to the details in a text, getting information from the words, illustrations, and graphics.
  * Ask and answer questions such as who, what, when, where, how and why to demonstrate understanding.

Reading

* Retelling Stories
  * Retell stories, fables, and folktales from many cultures (including different versions of the same tale), and explain their central message, lesson, or moral.
* Identifying the Main Idea
  * Identify the main idea of informational texts (articles, books about science or social studies topics, etc.) , as well as the focus of each paragraph in the text.
* Locating Key Facts and Info
  * Use text features (eg. captions, bold print, indexes) to locate key facts and information.

Reading

* Reading With Purpose & Understanding
  * Read 2nd grade text with purpose and understanding.
* Engaging With a Variety of Texts
  * Actively engage with a variety of rich and challenging texts to build a foundation of knowledge in literature, science, social studies, and other subjects.

Writing

* Conventions & Usage
  * Use basic rules of English capitalization and punctuation.
* Writing Structured Stories
  * Write a story with a clear beginning, middle and end and descriptive details.
* Writing Informational Pieces
  * Write an informational piece which introduces a topic, explains points using facts and details, and ends with a concluding statement or section.

Writing

* Writing an Opinion Piece
  * Write an opinion piece which introduces a topic or text, states an opinion clearly and explains the reasons for the opinion.
* Researching a Topic
  * Work with others to research and write about a topic.
* Using Technology
  * Use technology to produce and share writing, with guidance and support from adults.

Listening & Speaking

* Clear Expression
  * Practice speaking in complete sentences, using basic rules of spoken English.
  * With prompting, refine, expand, and rearrange sentences to express ideas more clearly.
* Participating in Conversations
  * Participate in conversations about topics and texts being studied, listening carefully to the ideas of others and asking and answering questions in order to gather more information or deepen understanding of the topic.
* Explaining Key Information
  * Recall and explain key information and ideas from media presentations or books read aloud.

Tips & Advice

* ***Continue Reading with Your Child***
  * Your child's reading skills are improving steadily and he/she can now read on his/her own, but continue to read aloud with him/her regularly. As you read, stop to discuss what you've read and ask questions about the content. Don't ask him/her obvious questions that are spelled out explicitly in the text, such as what color shirt a character was wearing. Instead, prompt him/her to think about the reasons behind the action. Ask why a character did something specific. Ask what he/she thinks the lesson of the story is so far. These aren't necessarily questions with wrong or right answers. The most important thing is to prompt him/her to think analytically about what he/she is reading.
* ***Take Turns Reading Through a Book***
  * Your child can practice shared reading with a parent, sibling, or friend. The child reads one page and the partner reads the next page. The goal here is to take turns and help each other with words the reader may not know. Each reader must follow along while the other one is reading. This activity helps build fluency, which is very important to becoming a strong reader.

Tips & Advice

* ***Play Audiobooks in the Car***
  * If you're planning a car ride of more than a few minutes, consider playing a CD of an audiobook. Children model their tones while reading aloud based on the ways in which they hear adults read, and oral fluency is an important skill that begins to develop very early in a child's literacy development.
* ***Encourage Questions!***
  * Encourage your child to ask for help when he/she doesn't understand a word and help him/her to try to figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words. If a character in a story is described with words that your child does not recognize, work with him/her to figure out their meaning from other clues in the text, rather than simply providing him/her with a definition. Children are praised and rewarded so much for showing off what they know, so make sure to praise him/her for asking about things he/she doesn't know. Show him/her that you also don't understand all the words you come across and demonstrate how you figure out the meaning of an unfamiliar word.

Tips & Advice

* ***Explore Different Writing Styles***
  * Encourage your child to develop his/her writing abilities and to tailor his/her writing to different purposes and audiences. Demonstrate how you do this in everyday life. Explain what you're doing as you write a work-related email, reading aloud as you write it and explaining how you're going to use capital letters and be a bit formal in your style. Or, if you're just jotting a quick reminder note to your spouse to leave on the kitchen counter, explain why you're taking a much more familiar tone.
* ***Incorporate Non-Fiction Books***
  * Make sure to incorporate non-fiction books into your child's reading list, such as books about how plants grow or how machines operate, depending on his/her interests. If he/she's interested in dinosaurs and other animals, appoint him/her the family "animal detective" and have him/her present a new animal to the family every week.

Tips & Advice

* ***Use Writing Skills for Birthday Invitations***
  * Birthday parties can be a wonderful occasion to make writing fun. Your 2nd grader can join in the festivities by creating his/her own invitations to send to friends and family. With your help, he/she can draw a picture and write the important information about the party: Whose party it is, where and when it will be held, and how to RSVP. Pick out some paper together and either print out the invitations on a computer or make handwritten versions. And don't forget to add stickers and glitter! Your child will love being part of the action.
* ***Play Word Games on the Go***
  * Word games are a great way to help your child appreciate the magic of language, and playing with language can start him/her on the right path toward good writing. Here's one idea to try with your 2nd grader: When you're driving in the car, taking the bus, or walking in your neighborhood, ask your child what he/she sees. Beginning with one of his/her words, try adding another word that starts with the same letter, like "ferocious fire hydrant" or "tiny tree." See if you can expand by adding more and more words, like "twenty-two tiny tulip trees."

Tips & Advice

* ***Make a Game of Using New Words***
  * Make a game out of broadening your child's vocabulary. Choose five unfamiliar new words for your child to learn each week and see how often everyone in the family can use those words in everyday conversation. This will help improve your 2nd grader's vocabulary, reading comprehension, and speaking skills.

Mathematics

* **In 2nd grade, children focus most on addition and subtraction skills, building on the work they did in kindergarten and 1st grade, and extending their understanding of place value from ones and tens to hundreds.**

Numbers & Place Value

* Counting Up to One Thousand
  * Count forward within 1000.
  * Count by 5s.
  * Count and add by 10s and 100s.
  * For any given number between 100 and 900, mentally add 10 or 100, or subtract 10 or 100.
* Odd and Even Numbers
  * Understand odd and even numbers.
  * Tell whether there are an odd or even number of objects in a group (of as many as 20 objects) by putting them into pairs, and/or counting by two.

Numbers & Place Value

* Reading and Writing Large Numbers
  * Read and write numbers through 1000, using numbers (352, 621, 1000) and number names (“*three hundred fifty-two,*” “*six hundred twenty-one,*” “*one thousand*”).
* Relationships Between Larger Numbers
  * Understand the relationship between ones, tens and hundreds: ten *ones* equal one ten; ten *tens* equal one hundred, ten *hundreds* equal one thousand.
  * Understand that in a three-digit number, the first digit represents the amount of hundreds, the second digit represents the amount of tens, and the third digit represents the amount of ones– for example, 843 equals 8 hundreds (800), 4 tens (40), and 3 ones (3).

Numbers & Place Value

* Comparing Large Numbers
  * Compare three-digit numbers using the symbols > (greater than or more than), = (equal to), and < (less than or fewer than) and explain using hundreds, tens, and ones.

Addition & Subtraction

* Large Numbers
  * Quickly and accurately add numbers that total 20 or less, and subtract from numbers up to 20.
* One- and Two-Step Problems
  * Solve one-step and two-step word problems by adding or subtracting numbers, through 100.
* Adding Large Digit Numbers
  * Understand that in adding two three-digit numbers, you are adding hundreds and hundreds, tens and tens, and ones and ones and you may need to compose a new ten or a new hundred. Use models or drawings and explain your written method.

Addition & Subtraction

* Adding Within 1,000
  * Learn to add within 1,000.
* Subtracting Large Digit Numbers
  * Understand that in subtracting one three-digit number from another three-digit number, you are subtracting hundreds from hundreds, tens from tens and ones from ones and you may need to get more tens and ones in order to subtract.
  * Use models or drawings and explain your written method.
* Subtracting Within 1,000
  * Learn how to subtract within 1,000.

Measurement & Data

* Reading Digital & Analog Clocks
  * Read circular "face" clocks and digital clocks to tell time to the nearest five minutes.
  * Understand the concept of a.m. and p.m. in a 24-hour day.
  * Be able to tell the time aloud and write the time in various ways, using a.m. and p.m.
* Measuring and Estimating Lengths
  * Measure and estimate lengths of lines or objects in standard units, such as inches, feet, centimeters, and meters.
  * Write out and read measurements in inches (in.) or centimeters (cm).
  * Compare measurements (how many more, how many less).

Measurement & Data

* Solving Word Problems
  * Solve addition and subtraction word problems involving lengths in the same units (within 100).
* Solving Problems Involving Money
  * Solve addition and subtraction word problems involving money – coins (penny, nickel, dime, quarter) and dollar bills.
* Picture and Bar Graphs
  * Read and create picture graphs and bar graphs to show measurements, quantities, or other data in up to four categories.
  * Solve addition, subtraction, and comparison word problems using information presented in a bar graph.

Shapes

* Identifying Common Shapes
  * Identify triangles (three-sided shapes), quadrilaterals (four-sided shapes), pentagons (five-sided shapes), and hexagons (six-sided shapes).
  * Analyze shapes by number of sides and corners (angles).
* Dividing Shapes
  * Divide a rectangle into several rows of same-size squares, and count to find the number of squares.
  * Divide circles and rectangles into halves, thirds, or fourths.

Tips & Advice

* ***Make Math "Hands On"***
  * Helping your 2nd grader with math means helping him/her understand the meaning of mathematics concepts, not just the procedures of doing a written problem. Making math as "hands on" as possible is the best way to ensure that he/she will develop an understanding of concepts and number sense. To help your child really grasp the math that he/she needs to master, keep the learning simple, use real tools and everyday objects, and make it fun. Just call your learning activity a "game" and you can guarantee you will have your 2nd grader's attention!
* ***Speak Positively About Math***
  * Speak positively about math and reward effort rather than grades or ability. Think about how important reading is and how we are told to model this behavior for our children. We need to place math in the same category. Don't discount the importance of math by saying, "I'm not a math person, I was never good at math." Help your child read books that incorporate math, such as *Millions of Cats*, by Wanda Gag, or *On Beyond a Million: An Amazing Math Journey*, by David Schwartz.

Tips & Advice

* ***Cement Addition and Subtraction Relationships***
  * To help your child build number sense, have him/her take several small objects (beans, pennies, etc.) and count out a specific number., starting with a smaller number. Then take your hand (or a cup or small bowl) and quickly cover some of the objects. Ask: "How many are under my hand?" He/she should be able to figure it out by counting those remaining. So if there are 5 objects and you cover 3, your child should see the 2 remaining objects and determine that 3 are covered. Do a variety of different combinations of objects covered using the same number of items. Then try it with more items, up to twenty. Your child will get practice seeing the addition and subtraction relationships between numbers.
* ***Use Food to Demonstrate Fractions***
  * Your child is beginning to use unit fractions, like 1/8, 1/4 and 1/2 in 2nd grade. Cutting up sandwiches, fruit, or pastries into equal pieces and counting the fractional parts is one way to reinforce fraction identification.

Tips & Advice

* ***Read Math Problems Out Loud***
  * If your child is struggling with math problems, have him/her read each problem out loud slowly and carefully so he/she can hear the problem and think about what is being asked. This helps him/her break down the problem and come up with problem-solving strategies.
* ***Use Real Money***
  * Children become so accustomed to seeing adults pay with credit and debit cards that counting actual money can be an unfamiliar practice. Engage your child in the transaction of buying things at the store, allowing him/her to pay with cash and to count the change. This will help not only with his/her math skills but will foster an understanding of the concepts of saving and spending.

Tips & Advice

* ***Combine Analog and Digital Clocks***
  * To practice telling time, have your child draw an analog clock and a digital clock and put the same time on both. You want to help your child count time in 5-minute increments. Give your child a specific time on a clock and ask questions such as "What time was it two hours ago? What time will it be in a half hour?" Take a look at a calendar. Ask your child questions about the days and dates, such as "What day is the 5th of this month? How many Tuesdays are in the month? What date is the 3rd Friday of this month?"
* ***Use Cooking to Explain Time***
  * When cooking or baking, think about the time required for your recipe. Ask your child to help you figure out if a meatloaf takes about 45 minutes to bake and the vegetables you'll be having with it take 30 minutes to cook, how many more or fewer minutes than the meatloaf do the vegetables need? Which do you need to start cooking first?

Tips & Advice

* ***Work on Sequencing and Patterns***
  * You can build sequencing skills by asking your child to try to name his/her classmates in the order in which they sit in their classroom. Or have him/her outline the steps required to make a particular dish or meal. He/she can also put math information into patterns. Your child can learn the names of shapes with increasing numbers of sides by arranging sticks into a triangle, square, pentagon, hexagon, etc. in order and saying their names as he/she points to them.
* ***Explore Fractions***
  * Since children are most familiar with the fraction ½, as in "Can I have half a glass of milk," the unit is a strong base from which to start exploring fractions. Comparing half a glass of water to a whole glass, half a cookie to a whole cookie, half a book (opening it to the middle) to a whole book. Encourage your child to show you when he/she sees or hears fractions used in daily life.
* ***Play Family Math Games***
  * Plenty of family games incorporate math. Tic Tac Toe, Connect Four, and dominoes are just some of the many games that help build strategic thinking and math skills.