



LITERACY

WHAT YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW AND BE ABLE TO DO



Throughout the school year, 2nd grade students will spend the most time working on the following topics. They should understand them well by the end of the year.

Learning to read and write:

- Matching letters and sounds to sound out and write most words. (This may include **inventive spelling** for writing.) Students should be able to accurately decode and write most commonly spelled one and two syllable words.
- Recognizing, spelling, and properly using those little grammatical words that hold the language together (for example, “a,” “the,” “to,” “of,” “from,” “I,” “is,” “are”).
- Reading and rereading **decodable** texts and words/sentences independently so that the reading is smooth.
- Reading grade level texts smoothly and with expression, at a **fluency** rate of between 70-130 words per minute by the end of the year.
- Writing complete sentences, with mostly correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

Learning about the world through text:*

- Asking and answering questions about stories and texts that are read aloud to them or they read to themselves. Retelling what happened and explaining key ideas.
- Figuring out the meaning of unknown words by using pictures, context, glossaries, etc. (Children may need support with pronunciation.) Figuring out the meaning of words in context when a known prefix or suffix is used (“happy/unhappy;” “pain/painful/painless”).
- Showing something new they have learned from a text or about a topic. This can be in any form: speaking and conversation, illustrations, letters, journals, stories, posters or sentences on the page.
- Writing about what happened or information learned from the text. Children should include a title, an introduction, well developed examples, and a concluding statement or section.

**The texts used for this purpose should be a mix of those complex texts read aloud to the child and those read independently (with support as needed).*



EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT LEARNING

- Turn on the closed captioning while watching TV to allow your child to read along with the dialogue.
- Have “book talk” conversations. Ask your child to summarize the important ideas in their own words. Ask your child to show you what part of the text provided this information.
- Pick a topic to learn about together. Read books, look online, do things together. You can help your child build knowledge and develop a love of learning.
- Encourage your child to use writing regularly in the real world. This can include authentic writing (grocery lists, notes, chore lists, etc.) as well as writing in a journal, book response notebook, or other creative writing opportunities.