

Second-Grade Parent Tips



- ✚ Don't leave home without a book, especially if you are going somewhere that may require waiting time such as a doctor visit or a car ride. Let your child choose a book to be enjoyed. Your child's teacher can help with a "just right" book.
- ✚ Your child is learning about genre. Fiction texts are made up by the author or writer and not real-life stories. The stories have elements such as characters, problems/solutions, and settings. A book with talking animals or flying people is fiction. Nonfiction texts teach us and give us information and are about real things. A book about the life cycle of a butterfly or how to play baseball is nonfiction. Nonfiction books may also have features such as charts and you might ask why the author included such features.
- ✚ Second graders are also learning to identify the lesson, big idea, or message of a story. What does the author want us to know? Maybe the message/lesson is about friendship, which might occur in a Frog and Toad story.
- ✚ Encourage your child to talk about his/her day, a story the teacher read, or what he/she did at recess, or to teach you a song the class sang. Language is important. You might drop some interesting words into the conversation.
- ✚ Rereading is great, whether you or your child are reading. Children have favorite books they like to hear again and again. When children are reading on their own, rereading is especially important. It helps students to read more accurately and to become more fluent.
- ✚ Ask your child questions about the story you've read. "How does the character feel? How do you know? Why do you think he did that?" Your child is learning to dig deeper into the story.
- ✚ You might want to stop and ask what your child what he/she thinks will happen next. "Did the author give us any clues? Let's read to find out if that is what happens."
- ✚ Your child may be able to make a connection to the story. "Have you ever felt like ___ in the story? Did you ever have a problem like ___ in the story? Tell me about it."
- ✚ When your child is reading, be patient. Some words may be unfamiliar and your child may try to sound out a word. "Look closely at the first letter. How does this word begin? We can think about what word might fit here." Sometimes children just make a wild guess. You might then gently point out letters that were ignored.
- ✚ Take turns reading. "I read to you, you read to me." Any time you are reading with or to your child will be a special time.
- ✚ We want to give your child lots of reading experiences.