

Second Grade Readiness Checklists

Math

Numbers, Operations & Problem Solving

- Counts by 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s
- Identifies, orders and writes numerals from 0 to 100
- Knows addition and subtraction facts to 50
- Adds and subtracts two-digit numbers to 99 without regrouping
- Shows beginning understanding of place value
- Makes reasonable estimates of quantities
- Identifies whole, half, thirds and fourths
- Names and uses ordinal numbers, such as first, second, third, etc.
- Plots and identifies positive whole numbers on a number line

Geometry & Measurement

- Identifies and draws basic shapes
- Explores and solves simple spatial and measuring problems using manipulatives (hands-on objects that can be counted or sorted) and drawings
- Recognizes and uses standard measuring tools, such as rulers, scales and thermometers
- Understands basic concepts of spatial relationships, symmetry and reflections

Math in action: Telling time, counting money, real-world math

- Recognizes and adds money to \$1.00
- Tells time to the hour and half-hour
- Uses drawings and words to describe mathematical thinking
- Collects and records data using tallies, lists, charts and graphs
- Reads a graph or chart and derives conclusions
- Classifies, sorts and compares physical objects by a variety of classification schemes and patterns (likeness, difference, sound, color, texture, size, weight, temperature, length of time, etc.)
- Makes, copies and extends patterns with actions, objects and words

Tips for parents to help children feel confident in dealing with numbers and number tasks:

- Create a coin jar where you toss spare change and give your child the regular chore of sorting and counting these coins (with your help) on a regular basis.
- Keep a master family calendar and have your child mark off days, count the days until up-coming events, and keep track of birthdays.
- Encourage your child to help sort the cans and boxes in your pantry by size or weight.

- Include your child in simple cooking activities and model using measuring cups or spoons; describe what you are doing as you use these measuring tools.
- Play counting games when you are in the car or out for walk; pick a "magic number" and challenge your child to spot that many dogs, then the magic number of big trees, or red cars, etc.

Reading & Language Arts

Reading & Comprehension Skills

- Shows independent interest in reading-related activities
- Listens with interest to stories and other texts read aloud
- Constructs meaning from print
- Understands and interprets stories or short passages
- Recognizes new words by using phonics and/or contextual clues
- Has a basic sight vocabulary
- Follows written directions
- Demonstrates understanding of stories by identifying the main idea and main characters, placing events in sequence and predicting outcomes
- Distinguishes beginning, middle and ending sounds in words
- Adds, deletes or changes target sounds to change words (e.g., change *cow* to *how*)
- Segments 1-syllable words into their individual sounds (e.g., *cat* = /c/ /a/ /t/)
- Reads some compound words and contractions
- Reads words in common word families (e.g., *bag, rag, tag*)
- Responds to *who, what, when, where, how* and *why* questions
- Retells central ideas of a reading selection

Writing & Spelling Skills

- Accurately writes their last name
- Writes words, phrases and sentences to convey messages
- Recognizes conventions of print (punctuation, parts of speech, etc.)
- Writes simple stories with a beginning, a middle and an end
- Writes correctly spaced, complete sentences using correct capitalization and punctuation
- Prints uniformly and legibly
- Spells grade-level words
- Locates words in a picture dictionary
- Uses strategies to create invented spellings
- Uses conventional spellings in commonly used words
- Understands the concepts of synonyms and antonyms

- Identifies beginning, middle and ending consonants aurally and visually
- Recognizes long and short vowel words
- Identifies word endings
- Identifies plural forms and compound words

Listening & Speaking Skills

- Listens for meaning in discussions and conversations
- Follows directions that involve a series of actions
- Participates in discussions and conversations
- Expresses ideas clearly (describes, answers questions, retells stories, etc.)
- Describes an object using two or more properties (descriptors)
- Uses "I" and "me" correctly
- Speaks in complete sentences

Tips for parents to help children develop language and reading skills:

- Ask your child to describe his day at dinner or at bedtime. **Ask questions** that focus on details. Ask your child to describe the best thing that happened that day and why that event was so wonderful.
- Tell your child a simple joke and ask him to repeat it back to you. Jokes require attention to both the language and the inflection in the voice.
- Record your child telling or reading a short story; listen to the recording while your child follows along with the book.
- Praise your child for speaking clearly, especially when other people are around.
- Listen to the radio or books-on-tape in the car with your child. Ask questions about the stories you hear.
- Model good verbal skills; speak clearly and deliberately when you talk directly to your child or to others when your child is around.
- **Read with your child every day**, even if it is just for twenty minutes before bed. Take turns reading short phrases or paragraphs. Build up to taking on character roles in stories.
- Let your child see you reading every day. Encourage your child to read short articles in the newspaper along with you.
- Encourage your child to **read to other children**.
- Turn on closed captioning while watching television with your child and point out specific words or phrases that appear repeatedly.
- Ask your child to read the label on packages of food; this is an opportunity to help your child become a critical reader. Look for the difference between factual information and advertising hyperbole.