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**FAMILY LITERACY GUIDES & ACTIVITIES
SECOND GRADE**

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Hello Families,

We're so excited to partner with you as your child learns to read!

Learning to read is one of the most important skills your child will ever build. It helps them succeed in school and in life. **Reading is a step-by-step journey, and you're your child's first and most important teacher.**

This packet is filled with simple, fun activities you can do at home using materials you already have. Our goal is to make learning feel like play. When children read, write, talk, and play, they grow stronger every day.

You may already be doing many of these things and that's wonderful! These guides will give you even more ideas to keep the fun going.

At the beginning of each grade section, you'll see a guide that shares what students are learning in school. This helps us all work toward the same goals. After the guide, you'll find easy activities to try at home. As you do them, remember to talk with your child. Ask questions. Let them explain their thinking. Sometimes, let your child be the teacher!

You'll also see teacher tips and the learning standards connected to each activity. This shows how your fun time together is building important skills.

Most of all, enjoy this time. Laugh, play, and learn together. When reading feels joyful, children grow into confident readers.

Please visit ReadWithMeNV.com or follow us @ReadWithMeNV on Instagram and Facebook for more helpful resources and fun learning ideas. You can also scan the QR code for quick access.

We're so glad to be on this journey with you!

With gratitude,
L3 Coalition





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FAMILY LITERACY GUIDE

Second Grade



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What should my child know and be able to do by the end of 2nd grade?

LANGUAGE

- Use new words that they learn from reading and discussion in speaking and writing. Connect new words to real-life experiences.
- In conversations with adults and peers, stay on a topic, express their ideas, and respond to what others say.

LEARNING TO READ

- Read most one- and two-syllable words.
- Accurately read grade-level texts at a comfortable pace and with expression.

READING TOGETHER

2nd graders can show these skills with books that an adult reads to them or books they read on their own.

- Ask and answer questions with who, what, where, when, why, and how to show that they understand important details in a text.
- After reading, retell stories or recount information including important details from each part of the text.

WRITING

- Write organized paragraphs for different purposes, including telling a story, sharing an opinion, or giving information. Use introductions, transition words (e.g. first, then, finally), and concluding sentences.
- Write complete sentences with mostly correct punctuation and grammar.
- Correctly spell most one- and two-syllable words. *2nd graders may still make up spelling for more advanced words.*

How can I support my child's literacy learning?

All literacy activities can be done in your home language!

Talk with your child using big words, sentences, and ideas. Engage in conversations as much as you can.

Read 20 minutes per day, and talk about what you read. *2nd graders should be reading more and more books on their own, but still benefit from listening to books read by an adult.*

2nd graders are **learning to read** many picture books and early chapter books.



Choose books to **read together** that your child is interested in but not ready to read on their own.

Provide opportunities for your child to **draw and write**.

Dogs rule

What pet is best for you cat or dog? I like dogs because they exercise a lot. Also they play fetch with you. They are fun to play with. That's why I like dogs best.

Source: Student Achievement Partners

Explore more activities to support your child at ReadwithMeNV.com!



You can encourage your child to add more to their writing and help them make their writing better by editing mistakes.

RETELLING ROPE

Your child can retell a story in order using key elements.

Grade Range: 1st - 3rd Grade

Time Required: 10-15 minutes



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OVERVIEW:

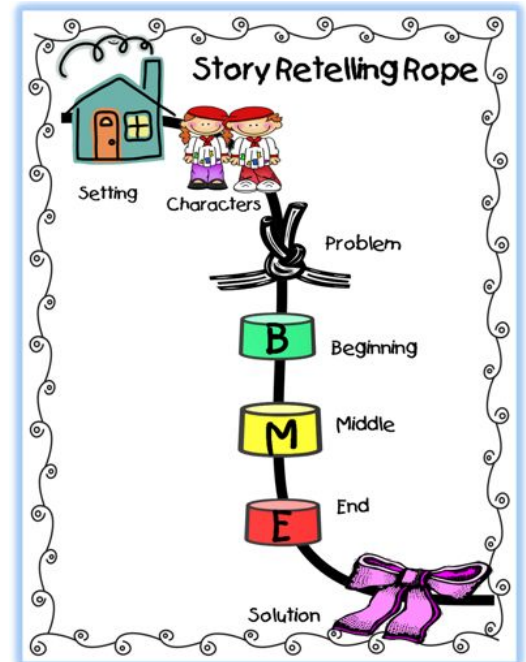
Second graders are learning to retell stories clearly and in order. This activity helps them identify the setting, characters, problem, and major events from beginning to end.

MATERIALS:

- Any book your child is reading (or a story you read together).
- Optional: make a bracelet with beads to represent the story elements below.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Read a story with your child, or have them read a story to you.**
2. **After reading, ask the child to tell the story back to you.**
3. **Guide them through these parts:**
 - Setting: Where & when does the story happen?
 - Characters: Who is in the story?
 - Problem: What goes wrong or is hard?
 - Beginning: What happens first?
 - Middle: What happens next?
 - End: How does it finish?
 - Solution: How was the problem solved?
4. **Encourage them to use transition words.**
Use words like: *first, next, then, finally*
5. **If needed, support the retelling.**
You do one part, and they do the rest.
The more they practice this, the better they'll get at it!



Learning Goals (Standards Aligned)

- Retell stories, including key details.
- Describe how characters respond to events.
- Use sequencing words when speaking.

Why This Helps

Retelling strengthens comprehension and memory. It shows your child understands what they read or heard, the meaning of the words.

Tips For Families

- Keep it conversational and fun, not a quiz.
- If your child gets stuck, ask: "What happened after that?"
- You can retell TV shows or real-life events, too.

ECHO READING

Your child can retell a story in order using key elements.

Grade Range: 1st, 2nd Grade

Time Required: 5-10 minutes



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OVERVIEW:

Fluency means reading smoothly, accurately, and with expression. In early elementary school, students are developing reading speed and confidence.

MATERIALS:

- A short book, sign, text, passage... anything with a sentence, paragraph, or phrase

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Read a sentence or phrase aloud with expression.**
Follow the words with your finger, moving smoothly.
2. **Have your child repeat it the same way.**
Make sure they are also following the words with their eyes and finger so they are actually reading and not just repeating.
3. **Continue for the whole text or one page.**
4. **Switch roles and let your child read first while you echo.**



Learning Goals (Standards Aligned)

- Read grade-level text with accuracy and fluency.
- Use appropriate pacing and expression.
- Recognize punctuation when reading aloud.

Why This Helps

Fluent reading improves comprehension. When children don't have to work as hard to decode words, they can focus on meaning.

Tips For Families

- Model excitement and expression.
- Short practice daily is better than long sessions once a week.
- Celebrate improvement, not speed.

HOW-TO WRITING

Write step-by-step directions for completing a task.

Grade Range: 2nd, 3rd Grade

Time Required: 15-30 minutes



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OVERVIEW:

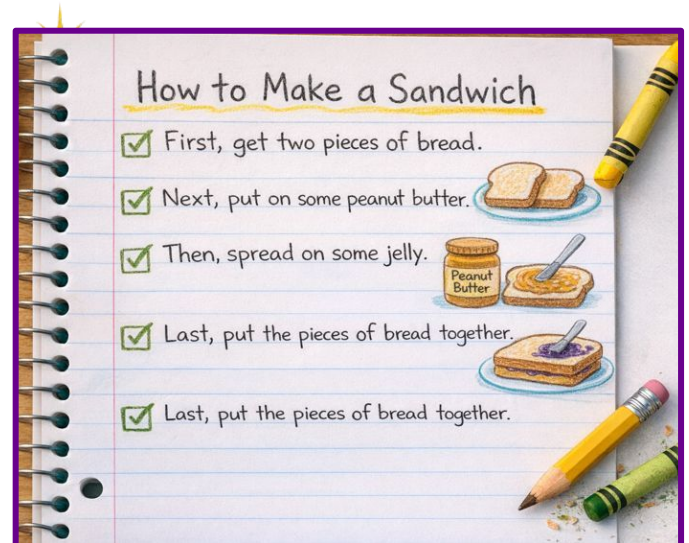
Second graders are learning to organize writing with a clear beginning, middle, and end. Writing directions helps with sequencing and clarity.

MATERIALS:

- Paper and pencil (or any writing surface and writing utensil)

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Ask your child to choose something they know how to do (make a sandwich, brush teeth, play a game).**
2. **Have them write the title “How to _____”**
3. **Have your child write steps in order.**
They should write at least 4 steps, but they can write as many as needed!
4. **Encourage transition words.**
Use words like first, next, then, last.
5. **Read the directions aloud together.**
6. **Talk about if the steps make sense.**
Could someone follow these steps?
7. **Revise their writing.**
Add any steps that are missing or fix any steps to make them easier to follow.



Learning Goals (Standards Aligned)

- Write informative texts.
- Use sequencing words.
- Include details to explain a topic.

Why This Helps

Writing directions builds organization skills and logical thinking. It also helps reading comprehension with sequencing skills.

Tips For Families

- Let them draw pictures with their steps.
- If steps are missing, ask: “What happens before that?”
- Focus on clear steps more than spelling.

STRETCH IT & WRITE IT

Say a word, stretch the sounds, and write what you hear.

Grade Range: Kinder - 2nd Grade

Time Required: 5-10 minutes



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OVERVIEW:

Developing writers and readers strengthen spelling and decoding by breaking words into sounds and writing them.

MATERIALS:

- Paper and pencil (or any writing surface and utensil)

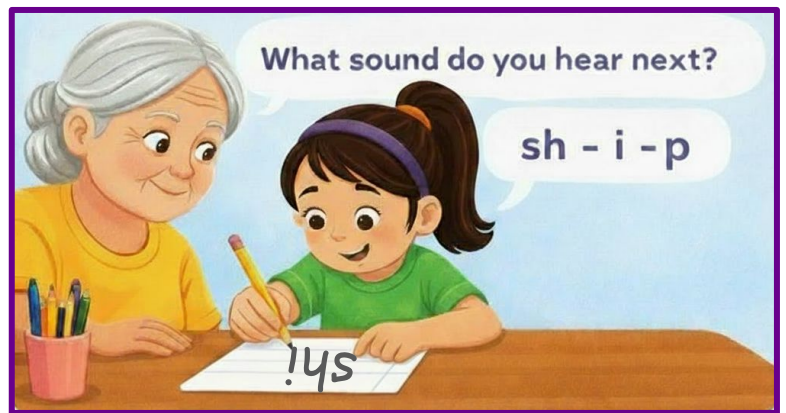
STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say a simple 1-2 syllable word.**
Examples: ship, cold, man

2. **Ask your child to stretch it out loud to hear all the sounds.**

Examples:

- sh - i - p
- c - o - l - d
- m - a - n



3. **Have the child write the letters that match the sounds they hear.**

4. **If your child gets stuck, first help by asking questions.**

- “What sound do you hear next?”
- “What letter(s) make that sound?”



5. **Talk to your child about any corrections.**

What sounds or letters were missing or added? Scan the QR code to see “rules.”

6. **Have your child re-read the word they wrote.**

Have them point to the letters they wrote.



Learning Goals (Standards Aligned)

- Decode words.
- Encode (spell) words.
- Hear individual sounds.
- Spell grade-level patterns.

Why This Helps

Strong sound-to-spelling connections improve both reading and writing.

Tips For Families

Ask your child’s teacher what spelling pattern they are learning in school so you can practice the same ones at home.

VOCABULARY NOTEBOOK

Collect a growing list of new words.

Grade Range: Kinder - 3rd Grade

Time Required: 5-10 minutes



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OVERVIEW:

Help your child notice and learn new words by creating a vocabulary notebook with words, meanings, examples, and pictures.

MATERIALS:

- A small notebook
- A pencil
- Coloring tools like crayons or markers

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Introduce the notebook.

Show your child the notebook tell them it is a vocabulary notebook to help learning new words.

2. Point out when you hear or read a challenging word.

Explain the meaning or look the word up.

[Kids.wordsmysite.net](https://www.kids.wordsmysite.net) is a great website with kid-friendly definitions!

3. Add the word to the notebook.

Help your child:

- Write the word.
- Write the meaning in their own words.
- Draw a picture and write a sentence to show an example.

4. Make a habit of practicing vocabulary!

- Add new words that you hear or read in the notebook.
- Regularly review the words in the notebook.
- Challenge your child (and yourself) to use the new words when speaking.



Learning Goals (Standards Aligned)

Why This Helps

Tips For Families

Learn and use new vocabulary words through conversation and reading.

Making meaning of new words and having chances for repetition will help new vocabulary words stick.

When reading, you don't need to stop the story to fill out the notebook. Just jot down the word and come back to it after!



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