

Understanding What Your Child Will Learn

Your child will learn many new concepts and skills over the course of the school year. In Texas, all public schools use the *Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)* as the basis for what they teach students. TEKS are provided for Grade 2 in the following content areas:

- English Language Arts & Reading
- Spanish Language Arts & Reading
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Physical Education
- Health Education
- Art
- Music
- Theatre
- Technology Applications

Below are a few of the TEKS that your child will learn along with strategies you can use to support your child's learning at home.



Reading

TEKS for English Language Arts and Reading

2(5) Developing and sustaining foundational language skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking—self-sustained reading. The student reads grade-appropriate texts independently. The student is expected to self-select text and interact independently with text for increasing periods of time.

What does it mean?

By the end of the year, a second grade student should be reading books on a variety of topics and other written materials (e.g. menus, posters, magazines, etc.) on a second grade-level. Your child is expected to choose what they are reading and read for longer periods of time as the year goes on.

How can you support your child?

- Provide a wide variety of reading material
- Show your child that you enjoy reading by reading near him/her
- Read to your child every day
- Listen to your child read to you
- Read more than books—read labels, signs, newspapers, etc.



Writing

TEKS for English Language Arts and Reading

2(11) Composition: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts—writing process. The student uses the writing process recursively to compose multiple texts that are legible and uses appropriate conventions. The student is expected to:

- (B) develop drafts into a focused piece of writing by:
- (i) organizing with structure; and
 - (ii) developing an idea with specific and relevant details

What does it mean?

A second grade student should develop drafts of stories and reports that share facts and information or give directions. Students should pay attention to the order of their story, making sure it has a clear beginning, middle, and end, and use organizing structures such as a table of contents, headings, etc.

Drafts should include specific details, such as descriptions. Details should also be relevant to what the student is writing about and narrowed to one topic.

How can you support your child?

- Tell stories to and with your child
- Provide your child with a variety of paper, pens, markers, and pencils
- Encourage your child to draw pictures that show their stories and information
- Help your child add details to their writing by asking them to tell you more about something
- Show interest in your child's writing



Mathematics

TEKS for Mathematics

2(4) Number and operations. The student applies mathematical process standards to develop and use strategies and methods for whole number computations in order to solve addition and subtraction problems with efficiency and accuracy. The student is expected to:

(C) solve one-step and multi-step word problems involving addition and subtraction within 1,000 using a variety of strategies based on place value, including algorithms

What does it mean?

One-step word problems ask students to perform addition or subtraction once to solve the problem. Multi-step word problems ask students to perform addition and/or subtraction more than once to solve the problem.

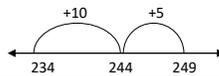
Examples of strategies include:

- Algorithms ($234 + 15 = 249$)

- Place Value Strategy

$$\begin{array}{r} 234 \\ + 15 \\ \hline 200 + 30 + 4 + 10 + 5 \\ 200 + 40 + 9 = 249 \end{array}$$

- Using a number line



How can you support your child?

- Break the problem apart and help the your child solve one part at a time.
- Have conversations with your child about the changes that occur when you put things together (addition) and take things apart (subtraction).
- Use objects around the house to create real world problems.



Science

TEKS for Science

2(2) Scientific investigation and reasoning. The student develops abilities to ask questions and seek answers in classroom and outdoor investigations. The student is expected to:

(A) ask questions about organisms, objects, and events during observations and investigations

What does it mean?

A second grade student should be able to ask questions when observing animals, plants, objects, and events (weather, seasons, etc.) and conducting an investigation.

How can you support your child?

- Model asking questions for your child
- Go on walks to find interesting natural materials in your neighborhood or community
- Encourage your child to ask questions by showing interest in their questions



Social Studies

TEKS for Social Studies

2(20) Social studies skills. The student uses problem-solving and decision-making skills, working independently and with others, in a variety of settings. The student is expected to:

(A) use a problem-solving process to identify a problem, gather information, list and consider options, consider advantages and disadvantages, choose and implement a solution, and evaluate the effectiveness of the solution

What does it mean?

- A second grade student should be able to solve problems by choosing an informed solution.
- A second grade student should find out multiple solutions and evaluate the pros and cons of each solution before making a decision.
- After trying out a solution, a second grade student should reflect on how well their solution worked.

How can you support your child?

- Model problem-solving for your child
- Allow your child to help you solve problems
- Find appropriate problems at home for your child to solve independently