



## Tips for Parents of Second Graders

Find ways to read, write, and tell stories together with your child. Always applaud your young reader and beginning story writer!

- **Tell family tales.**

Children love to hear stories about their family. Tell your child what it was like when you or your parents were growing up, or talk about a funny thing that happened when you were young.

- **Create a writing toolbox.**

Find a special box and fill it with drawing and writing materials. Think of everyday opportunities for your child to write — the family shopping list, thank-you notes, birthday cards, or signs for the bedroom door.

- **Be your child's #1 fan.**

Show interest in your child's homework and writing assignments. Ask your child to read out loud what he or she has written. Be an enthusiastic listener.

- **One more time with feeling.**

When your child has figured out an unfamiliar word, have him or her re-read that sentence one more time. Often children are so busy figuring out a word that they lose the meaning of what they've just read.

- **Create a book together.**

Make a handmade book together by folding pieces of paper in half and stapling them together. Your second grader can write his or her own story, with different sentences on each page. Ask your child to illustrate the book with his or her own drawings.

- **Do storytelling on the go.**

Take turns adding to a story the two of you make up while riding in a car or bus. Either one of you could start. Try making the story funny or spooky. This will stretch the imagination and foster a love for stories. It's fun, too!

- **Point out the relationship between words.**

Show your child how words relate and how this helps with both spelling and word meanings. If your child is having a hard time spelling a word like *knowledge*, for example, point out that it is related to the word *know*.

- **Invite an author to class.**

Volunteer to invite a published author to talk to your child's class about the writing process. Young children often think they aren't smart enough if they can't sit down and write a perfect story on the first try. It can be very helpful for them to hear an author discuss how important revising and editing is to good writing.

- **Use a writing checklist.**

Have your child create a checklist to always use when writing a first draft. The checklist could contain reminders such as, "Do all of my sentences start with a capital? Yes/No." You might want to show the checklist to your child's teacher. That way you both can be sure that you're giving your child the same instructions.

- **Quick, quick.**

Once a child can read a word, you can use it in lively speed drills. Show the word along with other words that your child has learned recently. Either use flash cards or a computer game. Make it fast so he or she doesn't get bored. These drills sometimes help children automatically recognize and read certain words, especially

those that are used frequently.