



# LANGUAGE ARTS

# 2

FOR FAMILIES

## SECOND GRADE

### What to expect:

Children in second grade are beginning to ask more difficult questions as their learning continues to grow. They are increasingly independent listeners, speakers, readers and writers. In second grade, children are reading more difficult books and writing longer stories. They can read a variety of texts, including newspapers, comics and stories, and are able to focus their writing on a central topic and include details such as people, places, dates and events. This information is a snapshot of learning in English language arts (ELA) for Grade 2. For a complete set of ELA academic standards, [click here](#) or visit [sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards](http://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards).

### By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Become an increasingly confident reader.
- Identify the main parts of a story, including details about the characters, where the story takes place (the setting) and what happens in the beginning, middle and end (plot).
- Read a book and describe the main idea and details about the people, places and things in it.
- Explain how and why something happens in a story read aloud or on their own.
- Write a paragraph about a topic and include supporting details such as important people, places, dates or events.

### What to do at home:

- Listen to your child read aloud.
- Help your child learn the meaning of new words by looking at the sentences around them and thinking about what makes sense.
- Discuss why an author may have written a book and what happened in the story.
- Talk with your child about the information they learned from a book about real people, places and things.
- Learn and use new words in conversations with your child and discuss their meanings.
- Encourage your child to write stories or observations about the world.

**Y**OU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important to your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support language arts learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



# LANGUAGE ARTS

## FOR FAMILIES

### Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity helps students be successful in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to develop curiosity, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, be creative, discover answers and explore their world.

Support your child's curiosity with questions like these:

- What do you notice or wonder about in your community?
- What new words or things have you discovered today?
- What is the most exciting adventure you could take? What would you do on the adventure?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't always have the answer. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

### Fostering Communication

Build your child's vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions to make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one point of view about a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others, encouraging positive relationships with other children and a strong self-image.

Support your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- If you switched places with your teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class? Why?
- What was the best thing that happened today? What was the worst?
- What challenged you today? What did you have trouble understanding?

### Fostering Comprehension

As children continue to strengthen their reading skills, they benefit from reading independently and with adults. Sharing a variety of print materials – books, comics, etc. – helps them explore new words and ideas. Use the following questions to help your child better understand what they are reading.

#### BEFORE READING

- What do you think this book is about?
- What do you think will happen?
- What kind of book is this?

#### DURING READING

- What do you think will happen next?
- Where and when does the story take place?
- What do you notice about the characters?

#### AFTER READING

- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- What happened in the beginning, middle and end?
- What was your favorite part of the book?

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# HEALTH - 2

FOR FAMILIES

## KINDERGARTEN - SECOND GRADE

### What to expect:

In these grades, children will learn skills and behaviors to help them be and stay healthy. These are the first steps toward developing a healthy lifestyle.

Health education in kindergarten through second grade will focus on learning communication, decision making, and self-management skills as they relate to nutrition, injury prevention, dental hygiene, handwashing, sun safety, social interaction and healthy relationships.

Children in kindergarten through second grade are learning to limit sugary drinks, try a variety of foods and plan a nutritious breakfast.

Accidental injury is the leading cause of death among children. It is critical that adults teach children how to be safe when in vehicles, on bikes, in contact with potentially dangerous or poisonous materials, around fire and walking in traffic. This information should be repeated often, and students should have an opportunity to repeat it and use play and role-play to show their understanding of it.

### By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Know how to place foods in the five food groups (fruits, vegetables, grains, dairy and protein) and how to relate them to the United States Department of Agriculture's recommendations.
- Understand how to stay safe and avoid danger in a variety of settings.
- Recognize and communicate their feelings in a positive manner.
- Understand how healthy behaviors such as good nutrition, physical activity, plenty of sleep, use of sunscreen, positive relationships with other students, etc., lead to good health.

### What to do at home:

- Help your child plan a nutritious breakfast by identifying their likes and dislikes and how those choices connect to overall health.
- Help your child search for hazardous household items such as bleach and motor oil. Afterwards, brainstorm ways the family can stay safe from these hazards.
- When your child is emotionally overwhelmed, help them learn how and when to ask for help and how to come up with a plan to calm down.

**Y**OU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support health learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



### Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to nurture curiosity in children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, be creative, discover answers and explore their world.

Support your child's curiosity with questions like these:

- Why is it important to learn to express your thoughts and feelings?
- Do you think that everyone feels emotions like anger, fear, happiness, sadness and surprise? What makes you think that?
- What is a technique you use to calm down?

It's okay if you don't always have the answer to your child's questions. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

### Fostering Communication

Build your child's vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions to make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one point of view about a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others, encouraging positive relationships with other children and a strong self-image.

Support your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- What do we have in our home that keeps us safe? (Discuss smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers. Call the fire department for a free smoke alarm if you don't have one.)
- What is our family's emergency plan in case of a fire? (Include a smoke alarm, two ways out of each room and the family's meeting place after everyone is out of the house. Teach your child to be prepared, not scared, and practice the plan as a family.)

### Fostering Connections

Making connections between different school subjects strengthens a student's overall knowledge. Connections may also be made between school learning and real-world situations. Point out these connections to your child and encourage them to find connections, too.

- Connect reading to health by reading books like "Big Smelly Bear," "Little Pea" and "Good Enough to Eat" that support good health habits.
- Connect music to health by listening to songs like "Germ Attack," "Rinse and Spit Rap" and "Milk Makes Your Bones Grow Big" that promote healthy habits.



# MATH

# 2

FOR FAMILIES

## SECOND GRADE

### What to expect:

In second grade, children are developing their math skills by applying new knowledge to what they already know. They are learning how to make a plan for solving a problem by trying different approaches when the problem seems difficult or they do not know the solution. At this age, children are beginning to understand how numbers and tools like rulers and scales come together to create learning experiences. They can explain how to solve a problem and why the solution works. Play continues to be a developmentally appropriate method for young learners to explore the world and make sense of their environment. This information is a snapshot of learning in mathematics for Grade 2. For a complete set of mathematics academic standards, [click here](#) or visit [sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards](http://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards).

### By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Read and write numbers to 1,000.
- Add and subtract one- and two-digit numbers. (For example,  $9 - 4 = 5$ ,  $25 + 19 = 44$ , etc.)
- Create and describe increasing and decreasing patterns of shapes and numbers (the number of skips in a game or rings in a tree, for example).
- Read and write time on a traditional and digital clock.
- Write and draw fractions for halves, thirds and fourths.
- Use a ruler to measure lengths to the nearest inch and centimeter.

### What to do at home:

- Create math problems about things happening at home. (For example, ask your child, "If we started dinner with 10 slices of pizza but have eaten 3, how many are left?")
- Determine the value of coins up to one dollar.
- Write two different three-digit numbers on a piece of paper and ask your child which one is greater or less than the other.
- Ask your child to tell you what time it is.
- Practice using a ruler to measure household items, such as school binders and a TV screen.
- Ask your child to help measure ingredients while cooking or baking.

**YOU ARE** your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important to your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support math learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



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# MATH

## FOR FAMILIES

### Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity helps students be successful in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to nurture curiosity in young children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, discover answers and explore their world.

Support your child's curiosity with questions like these:

- What do you notice or wonder about in your community?
- What new words or new things have you discovered?
- What math problems do you see around us? What problems could you make from what you see?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't always have the answer. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

### Fostering Communication

Build your child's vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions to make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one point of view about a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others, encouraging positive relationships with other children and a strong self-image.

Support your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- If you switched places with your teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class? Why?
- Did you get a chance to listen to other people's ideas in math class today? Did they make sense to you?
- Did you learn something that challenged you today, or was there something you didn't understand?

### Fostering Comprehension

Comprehension in math can be thought of as making sense of a problem or real-world situation. Children often have difficulty seeing how math connects to the real world or struggle to be sure their answer makes sense. Help your child with math comprehension by asking if their solution actually answers the problem. Asking children, "Does your answer make sense to you?" helps them stop and think deeply about the solution.

#### BEFORE YOU SOLVE

- What do you notice about this math problem?
- What does it make you wonder about?
- Where do we see this occur around us?

#### WHILE YOU SOLVE

- What do you think needs to happen next?
- Is there any other way to find the answer?

#### AFTER YOU SOLVE

- What would have made this problem easier to solve?
- Is there an easier way to do it? How?

Join the conversation!

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# MUSIC

# 2

FOR FAMILIES

## SECOND GRADE

### What to expect:

Children in second grade enjoy singing and can “match pitch,” meaning they can hear a note and sing it the same way. They are learning about musical rhythm and melody and are singing, making up and changing songs, playing instruments and working with classmates on songs and performances. Encourage your child to sing with you.

At this grade level, children are learning more about music concepts and rapidly adding to their music knowledge. They are problem-solving, playing instruments, singing and dancing. They enjoy learning new songs and musical patterns as new concepts are introduced in class.

### By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Learn the five notes of the most-used music scale (*do re mi so la*).
- Have a greater understanding of rhythms and notes.
- Understand common musical meters (skipping, marching, etc.).
- Learn terms for the speed of music (tempo), the loudness and softness of music (dynamics) and other music concepts.
- Make up or change songs while singing or playing instruments.
- Dance and move alone in a personal space, with partners in a shared space and with a group.

### What to do at home:

- Ask your child to sing a round (a song where one person sings ahead of or behind the other) together. Popular rounds include “Make New Friends” and “Are You Sleeping?”
- Encourage your child to sing the National Anthem at sports events and sing “Happy Birthday” to others.
- Sing lullabies together to a baby, toy, doll or pet.
- Listen to music together in the car and at home.
- Go to short, age-appropriate concerts or musical performances together.
- Clap or move to the beat of a song. Dance together!
- Encourage your child’s musical interest by suggesting they practice an instrument like a ukulele or piano.

**Y**ou are your child’s first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma’s academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child’s teachers and ask how you can support music learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



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# MUSIC

## FOR FAMILIES

### Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to nurture curiosity in young children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, discover answers and explore their world.

Support your child's musical curiosity with questions like these:

- When you hear this song, what do you like about it? If you don't like it, why not?
- What voices and instruments do you hear?

If your child seems to have an interest in music, consider researching musical artists, then listening to them or watching their videos together.

### Fostering Communication

Build your child's vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions to make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one point of view about a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others, encouraging positive relationships with other children and a strong self-image.

Support your child's musical communication skills with questions like these:

- What do you think this song is about?
- How do you know? Did the words in the song tell you? Or was it the speed of the music or the instruments used?

### Fostering Connections

Making connections between different school subjects helps build your child's overall knowledge and learning. It's also important for your child to make connections between what they are learning at school and in the real world. Point out these connections to your child and encourage them to make them, too.

- Connect music with physical activity. Put on a popular song and dance with your child or dance to YouTube videos together.
- Share music from your childhood or teen years. Ask your child what they think of the music. Depending on the song, talk about the musical history of the time (for example, the grunge era or early hip-hop) or events that were happening in the nation (for example, patriotic country songs from the early 2000s).

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# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

# 2

FOR FAMILIES

**YOU ARE YOUR** child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support physical education learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!

## SECOND GRADE

### What to expect:

In second grade, children are comfortable moving their bodies. They are mastering the underhand and overhand throw and most locomotor skills, including skipping. Second-grade students need plenty of time to practice manipulative skills like kicking, dribbling, volleying and striking.

At this grade level, children enjoy dance and some imaginative play. They are able to work safely and independently in PE.

### By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Be able to skip, hop, jump and perform other motor skills with good form. (Students at this level may not be developmentally ready to leap.)
- Use a jump rope to jump forward and/or backward with good form.
- Dribble with hands and feet by controlling the ball and traveling with it.

### What to do at home:

- To help your child learn to jump rope, coach them to start with the rope handles pointing at their stomach. Next, they will move the handles out to the sides of their body and make a big circle overhead. When the rope hits the floor, your child should jump over.
- If your child is having difficulty jumping rope, cut a one-foot section of a pool noodle and place the rope through the middle of the noodle. The weight of the pool noodle makes the rope easier to turn. When the noodle hits the floor, your child should jump over it.



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# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## FOR FAMILIES

### Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since helps students be successful in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to nurture curiosity in children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime and physical activity. It is important to understand the differences between PE and physical activity. In PE, students learn to be physically active; physical activity is when students practice what they learn in PE. Encourage your child to ask questions, be creative, discover answers and explore their world.

Support your child's curiosity with questions like these:

- What are different ways you can balance your body?
- What types of activities require balance?

It's okay if you don't always have the answer to your child's questions. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

### Fostering Communication

Build your child's vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions to make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one point of view on a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others, encouraging positive relationships with peers and a strong self-image.

Support your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- Why do you need balance to participate in physical activities?
- How can you participate in balance activities at home?
- What equipment would you need to participate in balance activities at home?

### Fostering Connections

Making connections between different school subjects helps build your child's overall knowledge. It's also important for your child to make connections between what they are learning at school and in the real world. Point out these connections to your child and encourage them to make them, too.

- Connect science and nutrition with physical activity by visiting a pumpkin patch or a fresh fruit orchard.
- Ask your child to use descriptive words to tell you about the visit. For example, "The peach was soft and round."
- Encourage your child to speak in complete sentences because it will help them write in complete sentences.
- Ask your child to find a book, information or recipe to connect to the food item.

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# SCIENCE 2

FOR FAMILIES

## SECOND GRADE

### What to expect:

In second grade, children are beginning to ask bigger questions as their knowledge of the world grows. Science education plays an important role in language and literacy skill development by exposing students to words connected to classroom observations. In second grade, science education helps children come up with answers to questions like “How does land change, and what things cause it to change?” “How are materials (what something is made of) similar and different from one another, and how do their properties (color, texture, flexibility) relate to how they are used?” and “What do plants need to grow?” This information is a snapshot of learning in science for Grade 2. For a complete set of science academic standards, [click here](#) or visit [sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards](http://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards).

### By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Develop an understanding of what plants need to grow and how they depend on animals to move seeds from place to place and for pollination.
- Compare the variety of life in different habitats (locations).
- Develop an understanding of observable properties of materials by studying and classifying different materials. (Investigations could include ice and snow melting or frozen objects thawing.)
- Understand that wind and water can change the shape of the land and compare possible solutions that could slow or prevent such change.
- Use information and models to identify and represent shapes and kinds of landforms (plains, hills, mountains, etc.) and bodies of water.
- Use maps to locate where water is found in liquid and solid ice forms on Earth.

### What to do at home:

- Grow plants in a box garden or in planters and ask your child to discuss the things that will help the plants grow.
- Go on a nature walk and write down the different plants, insects and animals you see. Then go to a different neighborhood or park and write down whether or not the same plants, insects and animals are present.
- Go on a scavenger hunt in the kitchen and ask your child to put all the bowls, utensils, pots and pans in groups based on similarities and differences.
- Notice how things change in the yard after a windy day or a strong rain. Ask your child to describe the differences and how the wind or water might have caused the change.

**Y**OU ARE your child’s first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma’s academic standards and why they are important to your child. Please be in regular communication with your child’s teachers and ask how you can support science learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



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# SCIENCE

## FOR FAMILIES

### Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and are motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to nurture curiosity in young children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, discover answers and explore their world.

Support your child's curiosity with questions like these:

- What do you notice and wonder about in your community?
- What new words or new things have you discovered?
- How can you solve the problems you see?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't always have the answer. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

### Fostering Communication

Build your child's vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions to make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one point of view about a given subject. Accepting different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others, encouraging positive relationships with other children and a strong self-image.

Support your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- If you switched places with your teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class? Why?
- What was the best thing that happened today? What was the worst?
- Did you learn something that challenged you today or was there something you didn't understand?

### Fostering Connections

Making connections between different school subjects helps build your child's overall knowledge and learning. It's also important for your child to make connections between what they are learning at school and in the real world. Point out these connections to your child and encourage them to make them, too.

- Connect science with writing and art by asking your child to draw pictures of the things they see in the world around them (for example, sometimes we see shadows and sometimes we don't, animals live in different places, etc.). Then, ask them to add words and phrases to the picture that describe the things they notice and wonder about and what might cause them or how they work.
- Connect science with engineering by asking your child what they notice and wonder about (for example, "Do you notice that dirt is carried to a new place after it rains a lot?"), then discuss what causes the things they notice, how they work or how they could be modified to work better. (For example, if you asked your child what could help keep the dirt in its place, your child could design and build a structure to hold the dirt in place.)

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# SOCIAL STUDIES

# 2

FOR FAMILIES

## SECOND GRADE

### What to expect:

In second grade, children are beginning to ask more in-depth questions as their learning continues to grow. By asking questions about the world around them, new and exciting learning experiences take shape as they learn about citizenship, economics, geography and history. At this age, students are interested in how things work and do well with hands-on tasks. Second-graders also enjoy learning through games. Their listening skills are growing, which means they are better able to join in class discussions. This information is a snapshot of learning in second-grade social studies. For a complete set of social studies academic standards, click [here](https://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards) or visit [sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards](https://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards).

### By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Be able to summarize the five key individual rights and liberties protected under the First Amendment.
- Understand the roles of national leaders, including the President of the United States, members of Congress and justices of the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Describe the relationship between taxes and the community services they pay for, such as roads and bridges.
- Point out the state of Oklahoma, its major cities and the states bordering it on a map.
- Point out landforms and bodies of water in the world around them and on a map.
- Describe how people make changes in the environment to meet community needs (for example, building a drain to help with flooding).
- Understand and give examples of the concept of supply and demand (for example, when less gasoline is produced, it becomes more expensive).

### What to do at home:

- Talk about community services like fire stations and schools paid for by taxes.
- Ask your child to find examples of First Amendment rights in current events.
- Discuss ways people can make changes in the environment (by building a dam, for example).
- Visit bodies of water like ponds, lakes and rivers and landforms like plateaus, valleys and hills.
- Discuss ways people pay for goods and services (for example, with cash, credit or trade).

**Y**OU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support social studies learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



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# SOCIAL STUDIES

FOR FAMILIES

## Fostering Curiosity

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Support your child's curiosity with questions like these:

- What do you notice or wonder about in your community?
- Where is your favorite place to spend time? Why?
- If you could change any rule, what rule would you change and why?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't always have the answer. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

## Fostering Communication

Build your child's vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions to make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one point of view on a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others, encouraging positive relationships with other children and a strong self-image.

Support your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- What is your favorite outfit or shoes and why?
- If you could have any meal for your birthday, what would it be?
- What is your favorite game to play with other people? Why?

## Fostering Comprehension

As children continue to strengthen their reading skills, they benefit from reading independently and with adults. Sharing a variety of print materials – books, comics, etc. – helps them explore new words and ideas. Use the following questions to help your child better understand what they are reading.

### BEFORE READING

- What do you think this book is about?
- What do you think will happen?
- What kind of book is this?

### DURING READING

- What do you think will happen next?
- Where and when does the story take place?
- What do you notice about the characters?

### AFTER READING

- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- What happened in the beginning, middle and end?
- What was your favorite part of the book?

Join the conversation!

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# VISUAL ART

# 2

FOR FAMILIES

## SECOND GRADE

### What to expect:

Children in second grade are learning about art with others while creating their own art. They are trying various materials such as crayon, paint, paper/cardboard and modeling materials, and techniques such as cutting lines and curves, measuring with a ruler, using stencils, etc. In addition, they are able to describe works of art using the elements of art (color, line, shape, etc.) and principles of design (contrast, proportion, emphasis, etc).

### By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Use different materials and tools to make art about topics that interest them (using paper, scissors and glue to create a collage, for example).
- Understand and practice safe ways to use and clean art tools and studio spaces.
- Discuss and think back on the choices they made in creating a piece of art.
- Create original works of art using traditional (pastels, clay, etc.) and non-traditional (leaves, recycled items, etc.) materials.
- Describe the appearance and subject of works of art while pointing out various artistic elements (line, color, form, etc.) and design principles (balance, contrast, repetition, etc.) used by the artist.

### What to do at home:

- Ask questions about the art your child made at school, such as “Why did you choose this color?”, “How did you feel when you made this?” and “What does this mean?”
- Look for art in the world around your child, such as murals, statues, billboards, etc.
- Make art together at home. Ask your child to design cards for special occasions like birthdays and holidays, then print them at a local copy shop.
- Ask questions about consumer art (logos, food packaging, etc.) such as “Why do you think they chose that color?” and “How do you think we could make it better?”

**Y**ou are your child’s first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma’s academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child’s teachers and ask how you can support visual art learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



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# VISUAL ART

## FOR FAMILIES

### Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and are motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity helps students be successful in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to develop curiosity in young children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, discover answers and explore their world.

Support your child's artistic curiosity with questions like these:

- When you look at this picture, what do you like about it? What do you not like about it?
- How would you make a picture like this?

If your child seems to be interested in drawing and creating, encourage them by providing supplies (paper, crayons, pencils, etc.) and draw with them. You can also use cardboard from shipping or cereal boxes to create sculptures and other things kids are interested in, like spaceships, animals, robots, etc. Find videos of how to make art online (such as Lunch Doodles with Mo Willems or Bob Ross videos) to watch together.

### Fostering Communication

Build your child's vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions to make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one point of view about a given subject. Accepting different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others, encouraging positive relationships with other children and a strong self-image.

Support your child's art communication skills with questions like these:

- What kinds of things do you notice the artist used in this picture? Do you see particular shapes, lines, colors or other things that went into making it?
- Which element is the most obvious? Why do you think the artist chose to highlight that element, and what could that mean?

### Fostering Connections

Making connections between different school subjects helps build your child's overall knowledge and learning. It's also important for your child to make connections between what they are learning at school and in the real world. Point out these connections to your child and encourage them to make them, too.

- Connect art with reading and writing. Ask your child to create three drawings and then think of a story that links them together. Add to the story with more drawings, then write the story on the drawing pages. Create a finished book by stapling or fastening the pages together and adding a cover.
- Connect art with history. Look at old family photos and talk about why they look the way they do. Search online for old photos of presidents or other famous Americans to examine the history of the nation through the history of photography.

Join the conversation!

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