



PARENTING POSTS

A newsletter for parents of second-grade students

Social and Intellectual Development

Parents want to help their children feel good, develop creativity, and reach physical, social, emotional and intellectual potential. This newsletter will provide insights and information on your developing second grader.

From a Second grader's View

Although parents wish we kids were perfect all of the time – getting good grades, being talented, acting mature and well-behaved, even at special events and trips – that would be impossible! We would like to tell you what we can do and what you might expect to see in many areas of our development this year. In this issue, we will talk about typical social and intellectual development, as well as some responsibilities that may be reasonable to expect from us at home. We are growing up and that means we should be expected to contribute to the family by taking more responsibility for ourselves, our belongings and our space. We still need lots of loving adults to guide and remind us, so keep those hugs and positive words coming our way.

Social Development

Playing is fun and winning is the name of the game. Although we are just starting to learn how to lose, we hate to admit defeat and may be sore losers.

Is not unusual to see us spending more time doing art projects or working on other “creations” or just sitting alone.

We may be brooding, moody, sad, thinking, or most importantly, daydreaming. We may be thinking about the next collection we would like to start: rocks, cards, stickers ... You name it, we love to collect things. Check our pockets before you launder our clothes, or better yet, teach us to do that for ourselves so we can rediscover those collections before they hit the washer. Helping us with appropriate storage will keep our collections from becoming a nuisance. We are just learning to sort things out in our minds. That is what makes collections so interesting and important.



You may have noticed: We love to talk!

Keep in mind, sometimes we exaggerate. When we fight, we use words more often than fists.

Please help us continue this by modeling how to solve problems peacefully.

Stress Less Activity



Stress is part of everyone's life. Even young children! Try this activity with your child to help reduce stress and enjoy time together.

Take turns giving each other a back or foot rub, or massage lotion on hands and arms for a relaxing treat.

Friendships are becoming more special. We enjoy sharing possessions, sometimes swapping them like secrets, but we still like time alone and time with our family members. We need your help when we play and work together so we can learn to appreciate each other. Please don't try to fix our minor disagreements. We need to begin doing this for ourselves.

Intellectual Development

We are more serious and less impulsive than we were last year. We lack the confidence we displayed a year ago because we realize we need to learn many things. Our thinking is tied to the here and now. We may have some difficulty remembering the past and planning for the future.

Concepts and categories are becoming clearer to us. When we were younger, all dogs were the same to us. Now if you say "dog," we are starting to understand that you may be referring to a poodle, collie or German shepherd.

Our thought process is becoming more complex. We can think ourselves back to the beginning of a problem and start out in another direction. This allows us to recall where we may have left a lost item or rework a problem. We also are beginning to understand another person's perspective.

Learning to read is a tremendous help in developing our sense of self. Reading on our own is amazing, but please don't stop reading to us. We still need and enjoy the time you spend reading stories to us. Help us find books that we can read to you and be encouraging as you sit beside us and listen to us practice so that we might develop a love of reading. This is a springboard to our future education. First we learn to read, and the rest of our lives we will read to learn!

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Home Responsibilities

We enjoy pleasing adults and we want to take on more responsibilities. Many of us already make our bed, clean our room, put away our clean clothes and put the dirty clothes in the laundry hamper. Remember, we need gentle reminding, supervision and training when we are taking on a new task. Clearly explain and show us what you expect.

Here is a list of other tasks we can do, but not all of them at once, please!

- Put away toys.
- Assist parents with household tasks and errands.
- Care for household pets.
- Do and return schoolwork and care for library books.
- Get up in the morning and go to bed at night.
- Carry out routine hygiene; shower, teeth, hair care.
- Be polite, courteous, respectful and willing to share.

We work hard to please teachers, parents and other adults in our lives and like to know immediately how we have performed. When you show an interest in our schoolwork and appreciate our help, we are more likely to work hard at school and help out at home.

Please be patient and encouraging with us. We need to hear that making mistakes is OK because it shows we are trying. Compliment our efforts as well as our successes. We are works in progress.



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