



SHELL
EDUCATION

GRADE

2

Conquering Second Grade

Reading

Mathematics

Science

Social Studies

Writing

Certificate of Achievement



Publishing Credits

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Dear Family,

Welcome to *Conquering Second Grade*. Second grade will be an exciting and challenging year for your child. This book is designed to supplement the concepts your child is learning in second grade and to strengthen the connection between home and school. The activities in this book are based on today's standards and provide practice in reading, word study, language, writing, mathematics, social studies, and science. It also features fun, yet challenging, critical-thinking activities and games. In addition to the activity sheets in this book, the end of each section also provides engaging extension activities.

Your child should complete one unit per month, including the extension activities. This will allow your child to think about grade-level concepts over a longer period of time. This also ensures that the book can be completed in one school year.

Keep these tips in mind as you work with your child this year:

- Set aside specific times each week to work on the activities.
- Have your child complete one or two activities each time rather than an entire unit at one time.
- Keep all practice sessions with your child positive and constructive. If the mood becomes tense or if you and your child get frustrated, set the book aside and find another time to practice.
- Help your child with instructions, if necessary. If your child is having difficulty understanding what to do, work through some of the problems together.
- Encourage your child to do his or her best work, and compliment the effort that goes into learning.

Enjoy the time learning with your child during second grade. Summer will be here before you know it!

Sincerely,

The Shell Education Staff

Suggested Family Activities

Extend your child's learning by taking fun family field trips. A wide variety of experiences helps develop a child's vocabulary. Field trips also provide greater context and meaning to his or her learning in school.

A Trip to a Zoo

Bring a blank paper on a clipboard with you. Fold the paper into four even squares, and label them Desert, Ocean, Rainforest, and Forest. Have your child guess which biome each animal belongs in and write the animal's name in the right square. Then, have your child read the information placard and determine if he or she is correct.

A Trip to a Museum

Your first stop should be the gift shop. Have your child pick five postcards of artifacts or paintings in the museum. Then, as you visit the museum, your child should be on the lookout for the five items he or she chose. It's an individual scavenger hunt! If your child finds all five items, you can celebrate the accomplishment! Plus, your child gets to keep the postcards as mementos of the day.

A Trip to a Library

Ask your child about a new skill he or she is interested in learning. Your child can then use the digital catalog to search for books about this skill that match his or her reading level. Have your child choose two books about the topic, check them out, and enjoy learning a new skill!

A Trip to a National Park

The National Park Service has a great program called Junior Rangers. If you go to a local park, check in with the rangers at the visitors center to see what tasks your child can complete to earn a Junior Ranger patch and/or certificate. Your child can also go to the WebRangers site (www.nps.gov/webrangers/) and check out a vacation spot, play games, and earn virtual rewards!

A Trip to a Farmers' Market

Farmers' markets are great places to learn how different fruits and vegetables are grown. For each fruit or vegetable stand, have your child identify whether it is grown in the ground, on a bush, or on a tree. Encourage your child to ask the seller or farmer about the steps it takes to grow the plant. Have your child choose a fruit or vegetable he or she learned about to buy and enjoy with dinner that night!

Suggested Family Activities *(cont.)*

By discussing the activities in this book, you can enhance your child's learning. But it doesn't have to stop there. The suggestions below provide even more ideas on how to support your child's education.

General Skills

- Make sure your child gets plenty of exercise. Children need about 60 minutes of physical activity each day. You may want to have your child sign up for a sport. Or you can do fun things as a family, such as swimming, riding bicycles, or hiking.
- Help your child become organized and responsible. Have places for your child to keep important things. Take time to set up a schedule together. Use a timer to keep track of time spent on different activities.

Reading Skills

- Set a reading time for the entire family at least once every other day. Help your child choose a book at a comfortable reading level. Take turns reading aloud one page at a time. Be sure to help him or her sound out and define unfamiliar words.
- After reading, talk to your child about what he or she has read. Encourage your child to share details from the books.

Writing Skills

- Set up a writing spot for your child. Have all of his or her writing materials in one special place. Having a designated area to write will help your child see writing as an important activity.
- Encourage your child to write emails, texts, or letters to friends and family members who live near and far.

Mathematics Skills

- Encourage your child to practice telling time. Give your child an allotted amount of time to do an activity he or she enjoys. Ask your child to use a clock to figure out how long he or she has to do this activity. For example: *What will the clock look like when your 15 minutes of video games are up?*
- Include your child in grocery shopping. Use the prices in the store to ask your child questions. For example: *Apples are 50 cents each. If you have two dollars, how many apples can you buy?*

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