



A Parent's Guide to the Essential Learnings

Grade 2

This document is not a complete or comprehensive representation of the entire curriculum. It is intended to provide parents with an overview of essential learnings in all subject areas. For additional information, consult your child's teacher.

Mathematics

- Counts by 2s, 3s, 5s, 10s, 25s, and 100s
- Skip counts forward and backward by 2s, 5s, and 10s from any number
- Counts backwards from any starting point up to 1000
- Reads, writes, orders, and compares numbers up to 1000
- Identifies place values to thousands
- Estimates quantities and verifies estimates
- Compares groups of objects using the symbols $>$, $<$ and $=$
- Names and illustrates fractions (e.g., $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$)
- Writes and labels fractions
- Recalls addition and subtraction facts through 18 automatically
- Develops algorithms for adding and subtracting up to three digit numbers
- Understands and applies estimation skills to number operations
- Estimates length and weight
- Compares increments of time (days, weeks, months, years using a calendar)
- Measures length in metric and U.S. units
- Tells time to nearest quarter hour
- Names, builds, classifies, and compares three-dimensional shapes
- Identifies the number of sides and vertices of two-dimensional shapes
- Calculates the perimeter of closed figures
- Identifies figures which are congruent
- Constructs and interprets bar graphs
- Collects, organizes, and displays data about real situations
- Describes and creates sets of objects given one or more shared attribute
- Uses pictures and objects to create, describe, and record sequences
- Solves open sentences involving addition and subtraction of whole numbers (e.g., $3 + \square = 15$)
- Summarizes mathematical learning through writing, speaking, and use of appropriate mathematical language

- Predicts before solving a problem and assesses the solution for reasonableness
- Poses problems based on given information or real-life situations
- Estimates to predict reasonable answers for addition and subtraction problems
- Builds and presents logical arguments
- Identifies and counts coins, \$1, and \$5 bills
- Gives equivalent values of coins (e.g., quarter = two dimes and a nickel)

Reading

- Uses strategies to decode words (e.g., consonant blends, vowel patterns; initial letters)
- Uses syllables, prefixes, suffixes, and root words to read unfamiliar words
- Identifies and uses word relationships (e.g., compound words, antonyms, and synonyms)
- Uses picture cues and context to check understanding of meaning
- Uses a variety of strategies to understand text (e.g., makes and confirms predictions, self-corrects, re-reads, reads-on, slows down)
- Builds vocabulary by using picture cues, listening to and responding to literature, and using context cues
- Reads silently for 20 minutes
- Understands elements of literary devices (e.g., rhyme, figurative language, and similes)
- Recognizes elements of literature (e.g., characters, setting, problem, solution, plot)
- Interprets and uses functional texts (e.g., articles, maps, informational posters, dictionaries)
- Recalls specific events, ideas, and supporting details to explain meaning or reaction to text
- Makes, confirms, and corrects predictions based on text and pictures
- Makes inferences from illustrative and textual details
- Uses logical sequence to accurately retell stories

- Finds similarities and differences in stories
- Reads to follow 2-3-step directions
- Reads and responds to a variety of literature (e.g., folk tales, legends, plays, rhymes, poems, songs, letters, diaries)
- Reads a variety of literature representing different cultures
- Develops strategies to meet reading goals
- Uses feedback to improve own reading

Writing

- Writes a four-sentence paragraph that focuses on one topic
- Elaborates in writing on main point or story with useful or interesting details
- Uses beginning, middle, and end to organize own writing
- Sequences ideas and details in own writing to make sense
- Uses descriptive words and phrases in own writing to create images
- Writes complete sentences
- Writes to tell a story, to narrate an event, to describe something, to explain, to give information, and to express original ideas
- Generates own writing ideas (e.g., draws, makes lists, brainstorm, webs, clusters)
- Gets ideas on paper by using drawing, conventional spelling, and invented spelling
- Re-reads and adds missing information to revise
- Edits own writing for conventions explicitly taught
- Identifies strengths in own writing and sets goals for improvement, with teacher help
- Listens to feedback from teacher or peers and selects suggestions to use

Capitalization, Punctuation, and Grammar

- Capitalizes beginning of sentences and proper nouns
- Uses end punctuation (!?), commas in a series, and apostrophes in contractions
- Recognizes nouns, adjectives, and action verbs

Spelling

- Uses knowledge of spelling rules and phonics to spell words correctly

Handwriting

- Prints legibly
- Spaces between words

Communication 🗣️

- Uses steps of active listening (e.g., faces speaker, remains still, is courteous, thinks about what is heard)
- Responds to presentation with relevant comments and questions
- Listens for a purpose (e.g., directions, stories, announcements)
- Recognizes and interprets nonverbal cues
- Retells main events and some details
- Follows simple oral directions
- Asks questions to gain information and to clarify meaning
- Makes brief presentation on interests, personal accounts, and learning
- Tells story with beginning, middle, and end
- Speaks with enough volume to be heard
- Pronounces words clearly
- Tells stories with expression and action
- Expresses own ideas, opinions, and feelings
- Identifies strength of own presentation
- Identifies what is being sold in ads

Science ☆

- Uses instruments to measure and compare properties
- Constructs and uses physical models of scientific ideas (e.g., win meter, planets in solar system)
- Identifies some challenges faced by our community/society in the areas of natural habitat, pollution, land use, and resource use
- Makes simple, reasonably accurate observations
- Explains how very different animals can be closely related
- Orders objects by properties including weight, length, and volume
- Compares and relates location and apparent size of objects
- Identifies problems for which people have developed new ideas, tool, and techniques to solve
- Identifies parts of a fish, sea anemone, barnacles, sea star, crab, an chiton, and describe each part's function
- Demonstrates planet's revolution, orbit, distances from each other and the sun
- Describes characteristics of a star; identify the sun as a star

- Describes the interrelationships between animals in the sea

Social Studies 🇺🇸

The social studies themes for the primary grades are:

- K - Self
- 1 - Family
- 2 - Neighborhood
- 3 - Community

History

- Recognizes neighborhoods change over time; compare and contrasts present and past neighborhoods to make predictions about future neighborhoods
- Describes ways people living in different parts of America and other countries depend upon each other
- Understands family history through photos, drawings, journals, an interviews
- Explains how point of view influences interpretations of historical events
- Creates a timeline to organize information

Economics

- Recognizes wants/needs always exceed family's/school's resources
- Understands that banks are an important part of the economic system
- Recognizes the importance of knowing how much one has in order to make wise spending and saving choices
- Understands the reasons and uses for tax money

Geography

- Identifies and locate physical features on a map or globe (e.g., hills, mountains, continents, oceans, lakes, countries, states, cities, plains, rivers, islands, plateaus, peninsulas, mesas, deserts)
- Recognizes the difference between changes on the earth's surface that are caused by nature (e.g., volcanoes) and changes caused by people (e.g., changing waterways)
- Lists how communities help each other meet the basic human needs: food, clothing, and shelter
- Compares and contrasts his/her culture with other cultures within his/her neighborhood
- Uses map key with cardinal directions (N, S, E, W) to read map

Civics

- Recognizes that all Americans have rights and responsibilities as citizens

- Participate in school/local project (e.g., recycling, food drives, litter removal) to make a difference in school or local community
- Describes the democratic process of voting and elections
- Identifies local government (e.g., school board, city council)