



Second Grade

We believe that you have just purchased the best complete curriculum package available, and we want to make getting started as easy as possible for you. Inside you will find the information you need to get started today.

Our experience is that schoolwork only takes about one to three hours a day at this age. (One hour is typical, three is quite rare.) This may seem like too little time at first, but keep in mind that not only are you able to tailor your teaching to your child, but you also don't need to take roll, allow for recess, or deal with many other classroom issues.

This year's curriculum is simple and easy to use; we are sure it will be a blessing to you. Enjoy this year with your child, and don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Hints for Planning

READING

While we believe this is the single most important skill to teach your second grader, you'll notice that we did not include any traditional readers. Don't let this puzzle you. Our experience is that the best way to cultivate an eager reader is to constantly supply him with reading materials that interest him. Future doctors may want to read up on anatomy; young explorers are drawn to the escapades of adventurers young and old, and the baby-lover in your family will be captivated by adoption stories. Assign reading if you must, but encourage it at all costs; a child who enjoys reading will find it easier to excel in every area. Many families have found that graphic novels provide huge incentives to their budding reader. We've included a favorite **Tintin** story; try it with your child and see if he enjoys it.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Lessons forms the backbone of your second grader's English program. Simply complete each day's short lesson with your child for a complete and easy introduction to language arts. **Daily Traits** also includes short daily assignments which are designed to build skills without overwhelming him. **A Reason For...** will provide him with daily handwriting practice. **Sequential Spelling** is not only the most logical spelling program we've seen, but it is also one of the easiest to use. Simply do one list of words a day, correcting any mistakes as you go.



THINKING SKILLS

Building Thinking Skills Book One is both complete and easy to implement. Simply have him do about two pages a day.

SCIENCE

Exploring Creation with Botany is part of our most popular science series. One simple approach is to read a chapter one week, then do the activities during the following week. At this age, don't worry if some portions go over his head, but do prepare to be amazed by how much he grasps! Technically, you have two-and-a-half weeks to complete each chapter, so if you hit a portion that particularly intrigues your young scientist, by all means, stop and explore it in greater detail!

MATH

Horizons math is easier to use than it may first appear. Our suggestion is to simply work through the colorful workbooks with your child, using the teacher's manuals as a reference only as needed. Use the **Wrap-ups** as drill when needed or for a break in the routine.



Daily Word Problems

is a wonderfully bite-sized approach to helping your child become a logical mathematician, ready to apply what he's learned in math to the real world scenarios he encounters daily.

HISTORY

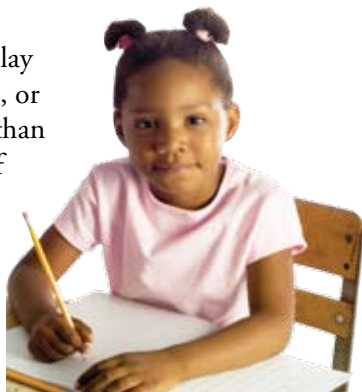
Story of the World is very straight forward. Just read your child one section from the smaller story book, then ask him to tell you what it was all about. Afterwards, pick an activity page or worksheet that is appropriate for his interest and your schedule. There are more activities here than an average family can use, so feel free to pick and choose!

GEOGRAPHY

Daily Geography uses a school-friendly layout that may or may not be ideal for you. Feel free to do it only once a week, combining all five days into a single lesson, if that is a better fit for your child. The **Globe Puzzle** is a great way to review basic geography; have him complete it at least once a month, or until it is too easy for him.

OTHER

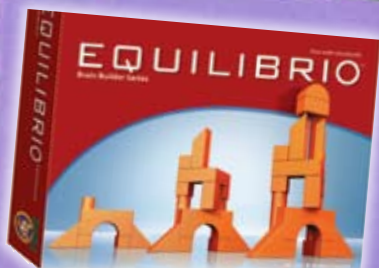
Thinking Putty is perfect for your student to play with while you read **Story of the World** to him, or at other times when his mind is more engaged than his hands. Use it if it helps him, or set it aside if it is a distraction. At the end of the year use **Spectrum Test Prep** to prepare him for annual testing (if your state requires it) and to review what he has learned. Keep it low key, and let the change of pace be a fun experience for him. If you run into a concept he doesn't know, stop and explain it to him; that is why you are doing the prep now rather than just waiting to get results back!



Want More?



Stop-Motion Animation isn't just fun and games. Your child is also writing, planning, and thinking hard.



Thinking Skills games keep young brains and hands occupied—what a relief for Mom!



Second-Grade Readers are an easy way to practice grade-level reading.



Done already? Some children are very fast-paced learners. Move on to **Third Grade** as soon as they are ready!



Free customizable schedules are available online at www.timberdoodle.com/schedule



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