

Teaching and Learning

Family Roadmap to Math Success in Louisiana

Grade 2 Overview

In grade 2, students build strong number sense as they work with bigger values and more complex problems. They learn to read and write three-digit numbers, and use place value to compare and order numbers. Students also become more fluent with addition and subtraction within 20. They also count within 1,000 and use place-value strategies to add and subtract numbers up to 1,000. Throughout the year, students use drawings, equations, and logical thinking to work through one- and two-step word problems. They explore geometry by identifying and drawing shapes, as well as dividing them into equal parts. In measurement, students practice estimating and measuring lengths, telling time to the nearest five minutes, counting money, and collecting and organizing basic data.

By the end of the grade, your child will be able to:

- Know all sums of two one-digit numbers by memory.
- Mentally add and subtract within 20.
- Fluently add and subtract within 100 using strategies.
- Count within 1,000 by 2s, 5s, and 10s.
- Read and write numbers within 1,000.
- Given a three-digit number, mentally find 100 more or 100 less.
- Compare numbers up to 1,000, identifying whether one number is greater than, less than, or equal to another.
- Measure to determine how much longer one object is than another using standard length units.

How can families help at home?

- Act out word problems using things around the house (socks, toys, or snacks). For example: “Mom has 25 socks and finds 16 more. How many socks does she have now?”
- Give quick daily math challenges, such as: “We have 42 grapes. I ate 18. How many are left?”
- Play card or dice games to practice adding and subtracting numbers within 100 or comparing which number is greater.
- Practice skip counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s using items like coins, buttons, or cereal pieces.
- Explore place value by breaking apart numbers into tens and ones while adding or subtracting. For example, “ $37 + 25$ is $30 + 20$ and $7 + 5$.”
- Practice comparing numbers using numbers up to 1,000 and state whether one number is greater than, less than, or equal to another number.

- Measure items around the house using inches, feet, and yards. Then ask questions like, “Which book is longer?” or “How many inches longer is the pencil than the crayon?”
- Practice using specific math vocabulary like: more than, less than, and altogether.

Building reasoning and problem-solving through word problems

Working through word problems helps students develop both their mathematical vocabulary and their reasoning abilities. Word problems support critical thinking, improve problem-solving strategies, and help students apply math concepts to real-world situations. Example word problems that second-grade students might work on:

- Molly has 28 apples. She gives 9 to her friend. How many apples does she have left?
- There are 35 students on the playground. Then 18 more come outside. How many students are on the playground now?
- Each box has 10 markers. If you have 6 boxes, how many markers are there altogether?
- Sam read 24 pages on Monday and 36 pages on Tuesday. How many pages did he read in all?
- A candy jar has 68 candies. The kids eat 39. How many candies are left in the jar?
- Brett has 62 stickers. Chris has 27 stickers. How many more stickers does Brett have than Chris?

Family Engagement Tips

- Talk positively about math and encourage your child to maintain a growth mindset.
- Encourage your child to share/show you a different way to solve a math problem than you are familiar with and explain the reasoning for their approach.
- Celebrate mistakes as learning opportunities. Remind your child that making mistakes is part of learning and praise their efforts.
- Stay in touch with your child’s teacher to learn what your child is learning and how to support it at home.
- Create a learning space for your child with supplies such as paper, pencils, rulers, calculators, and age-appropriate math manipulatives.

How does grade 2 math build on grade 1?

Grade 2 builds on the foundational skills covered in first grade. In first grade, students understood place value to add and subtract within 100. Now, they are adding and subtracting within 1,000 as well as reading and writing numbers through 1,000. When solving two-step word problems, students will now use addition, subtraction, or both operations within the same problem. Students also learn more about shapes, measure with standard units like inches and centimeters, tell time to the nearest five minutes, count money, and collect simple data.

Math Conversations

Communicate with your child about math using open-ended questions:

- What strategy did you use to solve the problem? Justify your answer.
- Does your answer make sense? How do you know?
- If your answer was wrong, how could you check your work?
- How did you solve that problem?
- Can you make up a word problem that matches this equation?

Online Resources

- [Family Math Resources](#)
- [Family Literacy Resources](#)
- [School System Parent and Family Engagement Resources](#)