



2nd Grade General Studies Purpose Statement Debbie Clement, 2nd Grade Teacher

Second Grade is an important year in building the foundation of a child's education. It is the last of the "primary" grades, and it is important to expand the reading, writing, and math skills introduced in kindergarten and first-grade, to make a smooth transition into the intermediate grades. My goals are to provide hands-on activities that meet the developmental needs of children this age and provide students with opportunities to explore, predict, and take risks.

In Language Arts, we concentrate on independent silent reading, oral reading that is more fluent and expressive, and comprehension and critical thinking skills. We expand our writing skills into story writing, correct grammar and punctuation usage, and beginning research skills.

In Math, the basics learned in the earlier grades are incorporated into more complex concepts. Regrouping in addition and subtraction, multiple-step story problems, fractions, geometry, time and money, and the beginning stages of multiplication and division are included in the second-grade curriculum.

In Science, we get to do many hands-on activities and projects. The focus is mainly on the Earth Sciences. We do one investigation of Soils and another of Rocks and Minerals. We also study the Rain Forest, in particular, animals indigenous to that area of the world.

The Social Studies curriculum begins with the First Americans and the overall themes of freedom, immigration, and moving to a new land. The latter half of the year focuses on biographies of famous people and learning about their lives and cultures.

Fostering social and emotional growth is important to create community and trust. In second-grade, the emphasis is on teaching social skills to encourage positive social interaction between peers, namely, how to work in groups, how to communicate effectively, and how to help others. Self-discipline and striving toward more independence are included as important goals.