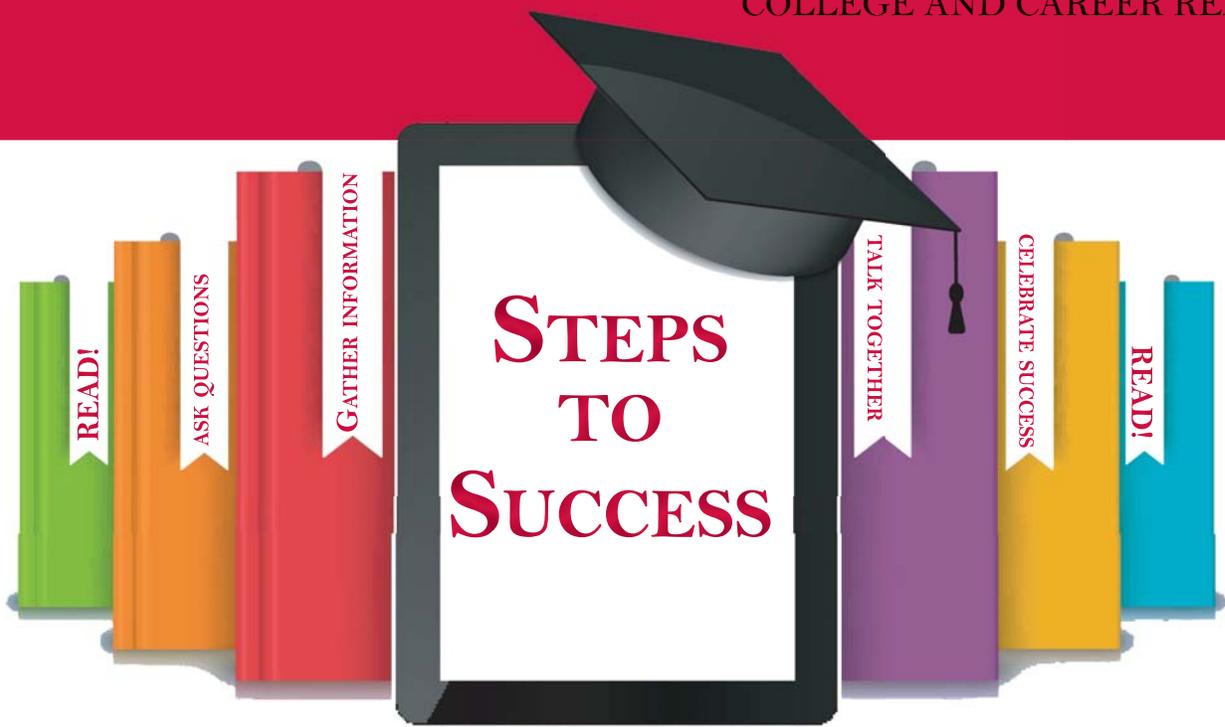


# SOUTH CAROLINA STANDARDS

COLLEGE AND CAREER READY



## Family-Friendly Guide for Second Grade English Language Arts

Second-grade children like to know how things work. The *South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards* use this need to know to expand students' reading and writing skills. They begin to develop research and critical thinking skills. Second graders read books that are more difficult and write more complex pieces. *Please note: It is so important that a child read fluently and with understanding before entering the fourth grade that Act 284 of 2014 requires retention in the third grade unless certain reading requirements are met.*



## STEPS TO SUCCESS

*This document is designed to:*

- Provide examples of the standards, skills, and knowledge your child will learn in English language arts and should be able to do upon exiting second grade
- Suggest activities on how you can help your child at home
- Offer additional resources for information and help

Log on to the SC Department of Education website, <http://ed.sc.gov/instruction/standards-learning/>, for the complete standards.

## LEARN ABOUT THE STANDARDS

The *South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards for English Language Arts (ELA)*:

- Outline the knowledge and skills students must master so that, as high-school graduates, they have the expertise needed to be successful in college or careers.
- Provide a set of grade-level standards, “stair steps,” based on the previous grade’s standards which serve as the foundation for the next grade.
- Ensure that no matter where a student lives in South Carolina, the expectations for learning are the same.

Human knowledge now doubles about every three years. Therefore, revision of South Carolina’s standards occurs periodically to respond to this growth of knowledge and increase of needed skills so our students will be ready for college or jobs. The *Col-*

*lege- and Career-Ready Standards* prepare students for dealing with the growing mass of information by not only emphasizing content knowledge but by also stressing the skills of reasoning, analyzing data, and applying information to examine and solve situations.

South Carolinians developed these academic standards for South Carolina’s children. The ELA standards are aligned with the *Profile of the South Carolina Graduate*, which summarizes the knowledge, skills, and habits employers expect (See [http://sccompetes.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Profile-of-the-South-Carolina-Graduate\\_Updated.pdf](http://sccompetes.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Profile-of-the-South-Carolina-Graduate_Updated.pdf).) Developed by business leaders, the *Profile* is approved by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and is endorsed by the Superintendents’ Roundtable, as well as South Carolina’s colleges and universities. The *Profile* demands world-class knowledge and skills, emphasizes critical thinking and problem solving, communication, and interpersonal skills.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS IN SECOND GRADE

### INQUIRY AND INVESTIGATION

Second-grade students work together to develop questions and gather information. They begin to generate possible explanations and develop alternatives. These abilities serve as the basis for critical thinking and problem-solving skills. These **Steps to Success** include:

First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move from “wondering” to questions that prompt discussions and exploration</li> <li>• Develop a plan and collect information from many sources</li> <li>• Select the important information and report the discoveries found</li> <li>• Draw conclusions from patterns and relationships found</li> <li>• Think about the discoveries and conclusions, and take action</li> <li>• Reflect on the act of learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask questions that lead to discussions and investigations</li> <li>• Develop a plan for collecting relevant information from many sources</li> <li>• Select the most important information, revise ideas, tell about conclusions and report what is found</li> <li>• Think about the conclusions and ask new questions to guide further study</li> <li>• Think about and describe the act of learning. Know when to seek help.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop questions that focus thinking about an idea in order to decide further study</li> <li>• Plan and collect relevant information from primary and secondary sources</li> <li>• Draw reasonable conclusions from relationships and patterns found during the inquiry process</li> <li>• Determine appropriate tools and develop a plan to communicate findings and/or take informed action</li> <li>• Examine the learning process and consider how to apply new ways of thinking to future study</li> </ul>

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS IN SECOND GRADE

## LEARNING TO READ

Second-grade students apply the sounds that make up words. Students work on self-correction of their reading. They are challenged to become more fluent readers. The second grade is a pivotal time in reading. Students move beyond looking at the parts of an unfamiliar word to figure it out, and instead now use context clues. These **Steps to Success** include:

First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use knowledge of the individual sounds of letters to read simple words</li><li>• Read a two-syllable word by breaking the word into parts and understand that every syllable must have a vowel sound</li><li>• Use context to confirm or correct word recognition and understanding</li><li>• Expand the number of “sight” (frequently used) words</li><li>• Begin reading independently with accuracy and understanding of the meaning</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use knowledge of the individual sounds of letter to read</li><li>• Use knowledge of how syllables work to read multiple-syllable words</li><li>• Use context to confirm or correct word recognition and understanding</li><li>• Learn more types of punctuation (ex. commas and apostrophes)</li><li>• Read more independently, with increasing accuracy and understanding of the meaning, for longer periods</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand how syllables, base words, prefixes, and suffixes work in order to read and understand multiple-syllable words</li><li>• Read irregularly spelled multi-syllable words and words with common initial and final sounds</li><li>• Use context of a paragraph to determine the meaning of words and phrases</li><li>• Expand the use of capitalization and punctuation</li><li>• Read for longer lengths of time to understand third grade texts</li></ul>

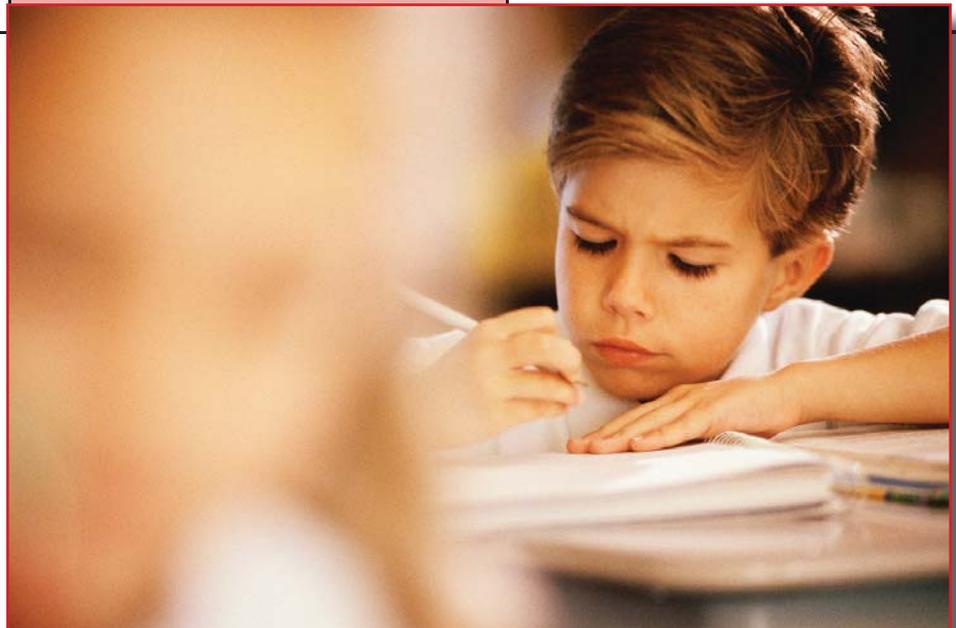


# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS IN SECOND GRADE

## WRITING

Second-grade students practice writing different types of sentences; improving on how they describe events, give opinions, and provide information on a topic. The students begin learning cursive writing, which helps improve their fine motor skills, thinking, and short-term memory. These **Steps to Success** include:

First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Practice printing capital and small letters</li><li>• Learn to use additional punctuation (capitalize dates and names, use periods, question marks, and exclamation marks)</li><li>• Look at books to pick a topic to write about. Introduce the topic, state an opinion, give a reason for the opinion, and close.</li><li>• Plan, revise, and edit to improve writings</li><li>• Write often on various topics both in and outside the classroom</li><li>• Work on keyboarding skills to write simple messages</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Print and begin to develop cursive writing</li><li>• Continue to learn punctuation and standard English grammar</li><li>• Explore books and other materials to pick a topic to write about. Introduce the topic, state an opinion, give reasons that support the opinion, and provide a closing sentence.</li><li>• Plan, revise, and edit to better focus on a topic to improve writings</li><li>• Write often on various topics both in and outside the classroom</li><li>• Continue to work on keyboarding skills</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue to practice cursive writing</li><li>• Write a researched opinion/informational piece that is logically organized</li><li>• Gather ideas from many sources to write about real or imagined experiences that use descriptive details and are logically organized</li><li>• Adjust the writing for the task to explain, entertain, inform or convince</li><li>• Plan, revise, and edit by building on personal and others ideas to improve writings</li><li>• Write often on various topics. Increase writing in length and complexity</li><li>• Continue to work on keyboarding skills</li></ul>



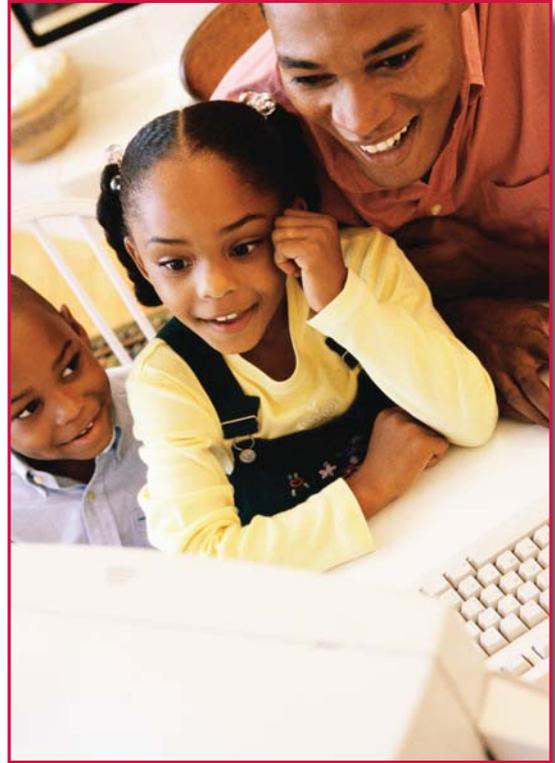
# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS IN SECOND GRADE

## COMMUNICATION

Second-grade students' speaking and listening skills are expanding. They exhibit more self-control as they listen to others. Second graders are improving in the way they explain personal ideas and respond to others' comments. They begin to think about the techniques of oral presentation. These **Steps to Success** include:

### First Grade

- Practice taking turns listening to others and speaking clearly
- Express ideas gathered from various sources in a clear and concise way. Conduct research individually and in a group.
- Explore and compare how ideas and topics are shown in different media and formats to see how understanding is influenced
- Use appropriate images and illustrations to support discussions and presentations to clarify thoughts and ideas
- Identify a speaker's purpose and what the speaker does to keep the listener engaged



### Second Grade

- Take turns listening to others and speaking clearly
- Express ideas gathered from many sources in a concise way. Conduct research both individually and in a group.
- Explain how ideas and topics are shown in different media and formats
- Use techniques of volume and tone, eye contact, facial expressions, and posture when speaking
- Create a simple presentation using audio and visual tools to clarify ideas and thoughts
- Examine why a speaker makes certain word choices and uses descriptive language

### Third Grade

- Participate in discussions by asking questions to obtain information and clarify thoughts
- Express ideas gathered from many sources in a concise way. Conduct research both individually and in a group.
- Compare how ideas and topics are shown in different media and formats
- Use techniques of volume and tone, eye contact, facial expressions, and posture when speaking
- Create presentations using audio and visual tools to clarify ideas and thoughts
- Identify a speaker's presentation style. Determine if a speaker is organized, addresses the audience, and why certain word choices and figurative language is used.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS IN SECOND GRADE

### READING FOR ENJOYMENT AND ENRICHMENT

Second-grade students look more deeply into the outlook, attitude, and points of view in understanding a text. They look at why an author wrote a piece and the manner in which it is written. These **Steps to Success** include:

First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine if the author’s main purpose is to explain, entertain, inform, or convince</li> <li>• Tell the order of events and determine the beginning, middle, and end of the writing; as well as, determine the topic</li> <li>• Describe the setting and identify the plot, including the problem and solution</li> <li>• Describe what happened and why</li> <li>• Read independently for longer periods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine if the author’s main purpose is to explain, entertain, inform, or convince</li> <li>• Determine who is telling the story at different points in a text - the narrator or characters</li> <li>• Make predictions before and during reading; confirm or change thinking</li> <li>• Explain what happened, why, and how it shaped the theme</li> <li>• Describe how cultural background influences characters, setting, and the development of the plot</li> <li>• Read independently for extended periods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the differences between first and third person points of view</li> <li>• State the author’s purpose and tell how the student’s perspective differs from the author’s</li> <li>• Recognize the different points of view of the narrator and the different characters</li> <li>• Describe characters’ traits, reasons for their actions, and their feelings. Explain how their actions contribute to the development of the plot.</li> <li>• Explain the influence of cultural and historical context on characters, setting, and plot development</li> <li>• Read independently with understanding for a sustained amount of time</li> </ul>

### READING FOR INFORMATION

The standards challenge second graders to think about their conclusions and determine whether they need more information in order to make a decision or solve a problem. These **Steps to Success** include:

First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask and answer basic questions to show understanding of a text</li> <li>• Compare familiar texts</li> <li>• Use key details to draw conclusions in texts heard or read</li> <li>• Select the most important information, revise ideas, and tell about conclusions</li> <li>• Think about the conclusions and take action</li> <li>• Reflect on the act of learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask and answer questions to given and implied information to demonstrate understanding of a text</li> <li>• Provide details to draw conclusions or make predictions from texts heard or read</li> <li>• Select the most important information, revise ideas, and tell about conclusions</li> <li>• Think about the conclusions and ask new questions to guide further study</li> <li>• Think about and describe the act of learning. Know when to seek help.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make assumptions and draw conclusions, referring to the text to support those ideas</li> <li>• Summarize key details of several paragraphs</li> <li>• Make conclusions or predictions from the reading. Support ideas with details.</li> <li>• Begin to read according to the purpose of the task and whether the text explains, informs, or convinces</li> </ul>

## LEARNING AT HOME

Learning does not end at the school door. Your child needs support and help from you to succeed in the second grade. Work at home to reinforce classroom learning and spend extra time on specific skills as needed. Here are some suggestions for things to do at home to help your child learn:

- Read, read, and read some more with and to your child. Let him summarize the story for you. Have him tell you his favorite character and why. Develop a new ending for the story.
- Make “flash” cards out of the letters in your child’s name and those of other family members or her playmates. Challenge her to make as many words as she can out of her own name and then out of all the letters on the cards.
- Have your child make a “wanted” poster for a character in a favorite story. Have him draw the character’s picture and then write the “villain’s” name, description, and crimes committed. Talk about the different descriptive words that could be used.
- Help your child to identify if what she is reading is fact or a made up story. Discuss why. Look in the children’s section of your library for words like *fiction*, *non-fiction*, *biography*, *history*, and *geography*. Talk about the meaning of each word.
- Look at the pictures in his books, have him make up and write captions to describe what is happening.



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The *Student Reading Success Activity Guide, June 2015* at <http://www.eoc.sc.gov> is available for download from the S.C. Education Oversight Committee. It has information and activities for helping your child become a better reader. Scroll down to the bottom of the web page to see the link.
- To get a fun game to help your child with spelling, try <http://mrnuusbaum.com/spellingcentral/>. This site also has games for improving reading.
- This site has different games with difficulty settings to help with letter sounds, syllable recognition, vocabulary and more: <http://www.earobics.com/gamegoo/goeey.html>.
- For spelling and word relationships games, try <http://www.4kids.org/games/>.
- For games, puzzles, worksheets and interactive stories to help you promote reading and improve your child's skills, see: [www.gameclassroom.com/2nd-grade](http://www.gameclassroom.com/2nd-grade).
- The S.C. State Library and many of our county public libraries provide access to *TumbleBooks*, online books that your child can read or the computer will read the book with him. *Tumblebooks*, <http://daybyday-sc.org/read-with-me>, also has games and activities.
- Go to your public library for books, CDs, and DVDs for learning and fun. You can always use the computers there for the learning games listed above. Let your child get his own library card. If you are unsure about the reading level of a book, ask the librarians. They love to answer questions about books.



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