

So You're Parenting a Second Grader

Tips to help your child learn to read

Reading is an essential skill for learning in all subjects. The ability to read well leads to success in school and life. As the parent or caregiver, your involvement really helps your child become a confident student and lifelong reader. It's okay to explore the joy of reading together! The series "So You're Parenting..." gives you helpful activities and tips to prepare your child for Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee.



Stark County District Library,
Library Snapshot Day

What is the Third Grade Reading Guarantee?

In 2012, the Ohio Legislature passed a bill that says that students who do not reach a passing score on the 3rd grade state reading test will receive additional support in order to advance to the required reading level.

Although it is called the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, your child will be assessed in reading at the beginning of each grade from kindergarten to 3rd grade. If your child is not at the required reading level, your school will tell you about services your child will receive.

There are also many ways you can help your child with reading. If you need more information, see the Family Resources on the Ohio Department of Education's website:

<http://tinyurl.com/ohiotgrg>

Reading in Second Grade: Here's What to Expect

Two sets of skills are especially important for beginning readers in second grade:

Phonics (which is connecting sounds with letters) and **word recognition**. Here are some examples:

- Your child will know the difference between sounds like the "a" in "cake" and the "a" in "cat," and other long and short vowels.
- Your child will know and read the sounds that vowel pairs like "oa" and "ea" make in words like "boat" and "each."
- Your child will be able to read and understand words with prefixes and suffixes, like the "re-" in "rewrite" and the "-ly" in "friendly."
- Your child will know words that have similar spellings but different sounds like "hear" and "head," and to read and recognize grade-level words that aren't spelled like they sound, like "they," "our," and "when."

Fluency, which is the ability to understand what is being read and to read with flow. Here are some examples:

- Your child will be able to read second grade material aloud and to understand what she is reading.
- Your child will be able to know when he says a word incorrectly, and go back and correct it.
- Your child will read aloud, not too slowly or too quickly, without stumbling.

Activities to do with your child to build reading skills

Reading on the Go

Reading can happen anywhere, anytime. You can do simple activities with your child at the grocery store or on a walk around the neighborhood.

In the **car**, have your child **read a second grade level book aloud** to you. If you are taking a long trip, find books that go along with your desti-

nation so that everyone can learn more about the place that you will visit.

While at a **restaurant**, ask your child to look at the menu and find words that have **suffixes or prefixes**. Are there some suffixes or prefixes that are used more than others?

In a **waiting room**, ask a question that can be answered using a **chart, sign, or poster** hanging on the wall. Have your child find the answer by reading.

Make a game of coming up with a word that includes all the letters in a license plate number. Whoever comes up with a word most quickly, or makes the shortest word using all the letters, wins that round.

Reading for a Purpose

Reading can happen at home or in your local library, whether for fun or to find information. Here are some reading tips:

Ask your child to read a book using the **voice and expressions** of someone else: a teacher, coach, or policeman, for example. Model this first for your child, showing him how a different person would say and interpret the words and story.

Choose a **short poem** that your child enjoys for her to learn and say from memory. Encourage her to use **gestures and facial expressions** while she says the poem aloud. Practice the poem together until your child is comfortable reciting it.

Help your child sort **lists of words** into categories such as words with one/two/more syllables, with long vowel sounds, or with prefixes or suffixes. You may use your child's list of sight words, spelling words, or vocabulary words from school.

- **Sight words** are words that a child should know just by looking at them, like "before," "green," and "found."
- You can figure out how many **syllables** a word has by clapping as you say the word aloud: clap once for "cat," clap twice for "raccoon" (rac-coon), clap three times for "elephant" (el-e-phant).

Community Support for Your Child's Reading

As your child grows, create relationships with supportive community members who know a lot about reading.

- The **public librarian** will help you find enjoyable, easy books and can recommend strategies to help make reading a fun, healthy part of your everyday life.
- The **school librarian** will be your hero, as he or she will recommend great books and fun series that will keep your child involved in reading.
- The **school's PTA** will help you connect with an active network of parents who care about education. Don't be timid about talking with other parents and swapping ideas about age-appropriate reading activities that have worked for them.

Don't let reading slide in the summer! Participate in your public library's summer reading program, or just hang out at the library with your child and enjoy the books and activities that are free for your use.

Reading on the Screen

Handheld devices, televisions, and computers can be part of the reading experience for your child, with these activities:

Read an online article or story with your child, using the resources that can be found in the PreK-5 section on the **INFOhio** website (<http://www.infohio.org>). Contact your child's school librarian or teacher for the password. Use **Bookflix** to explore pairs of fiction and nonfiction books that second graders will enjoy.

Using your TV, select **closed captioning** and have your child read the text.

Using your phone or tablet, **download apps** or bookmark reading websites so your child can read anywhere, anytime.

"So You're Parenting..." is a service of the Ohio Educational Library Media Association (OELMA), the Ohio PTA, INFOhio, and the State Library of Ohio. For more information: <http://www.infohio.org/students/parents>

