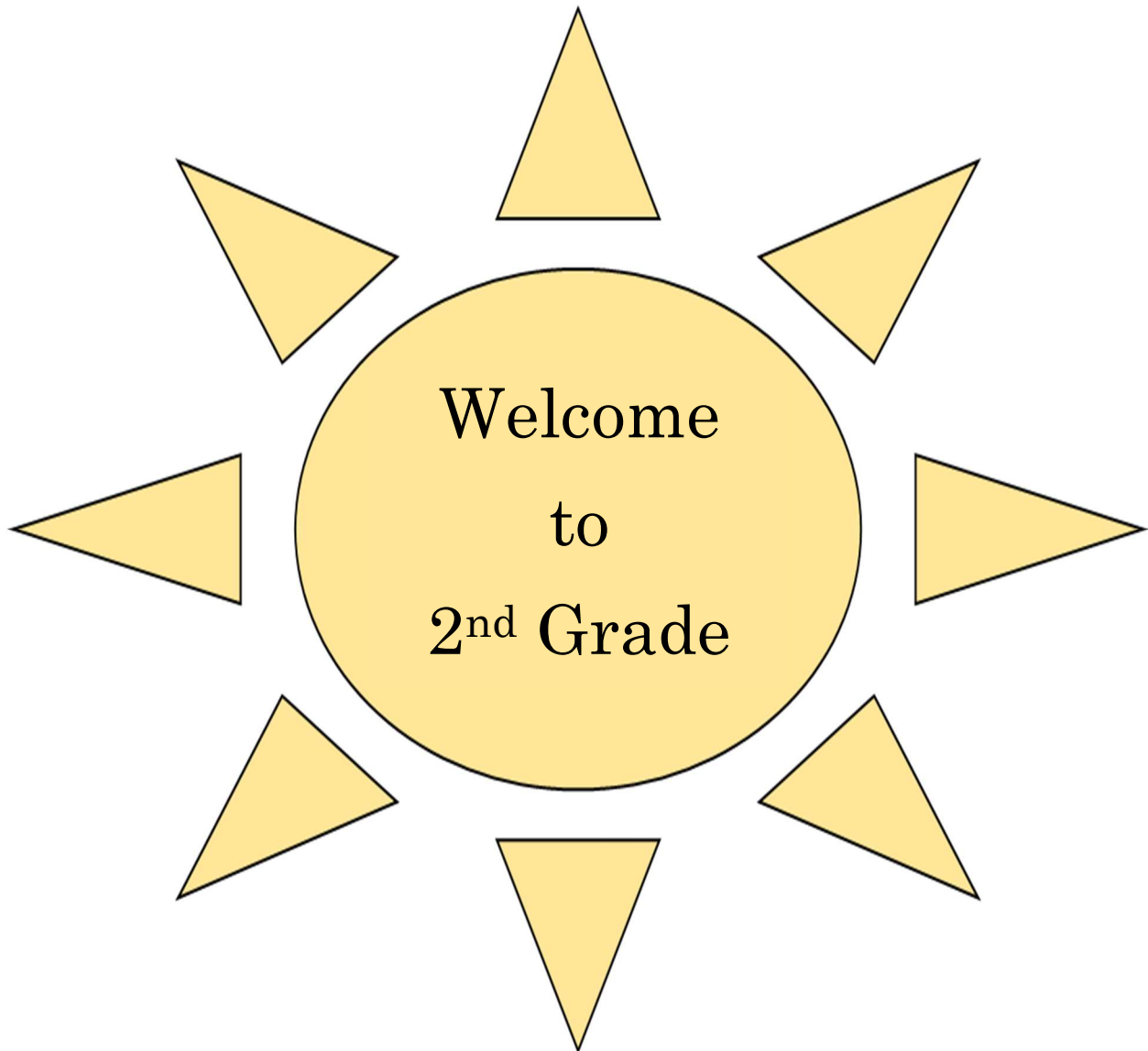


# Blankner K8



**Suggested Summer Activities for  
Rising 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders**

## Welcome to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade!

This packet is filled with many different, engaging, and fun reading, writing, math, and science activities and resources. Over the summer vacation, we strongly encourage you to set aside some time for your child to work on these skills to ensure continued progress in 2nd grade.

Have a great summer and happy learning!

~2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teachers

### READING

#### Suggested Summer Reading List for Students Entering 2nd Grade

We would like to suggest a list of authors and books that would be appropriate for beginning second graders. As you know, each child's reading level develops at different rates. Some of these titles or authors may seem too easy or too difficult for your child. If your child picks a book you think may be too hard, have him/her read a full page aloud to you. If there are five or more mistakes while reading, the book is probably too difficult. If there are less than five errors, the book should be appropriate. Please encourage your child to read this summer by choosing appropriate reading material and read as much as possible together. Spending time reading with your child is one of the greatest gifts they will ever receive.

#### Suggested Authors

Patricia Polacco  
Doreen Cronin  
Jan Brett  
Gail Gibbons  
Chris Van Allsburg  
Maurice Sendak

#### Suggested Series:

Magic Tree House by Mary Pope Osbourne  
Nate the Great by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat  
Flat Stanley by Sara Penny Packer  
Cam Jansen by David A. Adler  
Junie B. Jones by Barbara Park  
Mercy Watson by Kate DiCamillo  
Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel  
Henry and Mudge by Cynthia Rylant

#### At Home Reading Development Activities

##### Fluency

Select a book on a Second Grade level and count off 90 sequential words from any page(s). Have your child read the 90 words in 1 minute. Subtract the number of words that were skipped or read incorrectly from 90.

## Fiction Text Activities

- Comprehension Cube - Create or buy a reading cube that has who, what, where, when, and how questions printed on each side. Have the child read a book and toss the cube. He/she will answer that question using evidence from the book.
- Develop your child's understanding of a story by using the following questions throughout their reading:
  - \*Give me a brief summary of the story. (What was the story about?)
  - \*Tell me the main idea or main lesson from this story.
  - \*What was \_\_\_'s (character) purpose when he/she \_\_\_ (action) in the story. Use details from the story in your answer.
  - \*Name two reasons why (name 2-3 characters from the story) agree or disagree about \_\_\_\_\_. What is your opinion about this issue?
  - \*Using details from the story, name two character traits that describe \_\_\_ (name of character).
  - \*Use details from the story to describe the relationship between \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ (characters from the story).
  - \*Describe \_\_\_'s actions in the story. How does this person's actions affect the story's ending?
  - \*Come up with another title for this story, and explain why it is a good title for the story.
  - \*What does \_\_\_ (sentence) mean in this book? How do you know?
  - \*How are \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ different? How are they the same?

## Non-Fiction Text Activities

- I-Spy Reading - Have children play I-Spy when identifying the following Text & Graphic Features:  
Headings, title, captions, bold print, diagrams, photographs, charts, and maps.
- Develop your child's understanding of informational non-fiction text by using the following questions throughout their reading:
  - \*What is this book/story about? What do you think the author wanted you to learn from reading it?
  - \*What's the main idea from this book? Use details from the text to explain why this is the main idea.
  - \*Explain how \_\_\_ works. How do you know?
  - \*Name at least 2 characteristics of \_\_\_\_\_. Use details from the book in your answer.
  - \*Name at least 2 text features used in this book. Explain how these text features supported your understanding of the text.
  - \*Name three ways the text says \_\_\_ can happen.
  - \*Explain the process of \_\_\_\_\_. Use details from the book to support your answer.
  - \*What would happen if the steps in \_\_\_ (process) happened out of order?
  - \*What does \_\_\_ (vocabulary word) mean? How do you know?
  - \*What does \_\_\_ (phrase or sentence from the text) mean? How do you know?
  - \*What caused \_\_\_ to happen?
  - \*What effect did \_\_\_ have on \_\_\_?

## **Summer Literacy Programs**

- Kids ages 10 and under can join Pottery Barn Kids' & PBS Kids Summer Reading Challenge online. If they finish any of the site's reading lists, they can get a free book from the store.
- Elementary students can get a free book from Barnes and Noble's "Imagination Destination" program when you download and finish an online reading journal.
- Our local public library has a summer reading program for children of ALL ages. Check out... <https://www.ocls.info/kids-summer-reading-program> for more information regarding exciting activities offer ALL summer long.

## **WRITING**

### **Start a Journal**

Start a summer journal. In it, ask your child to write about their favorite activities of summer. If a child has a memorable day swimming, for instance, ask them to write about it. Ask them about their favorite summery things. Ask kids to draw and write about how the earth seems to change from spring to summer and then to fall and winter. You can even ask the child to write down their favorite seasonal recipes, or how to start a garden. At the end of the summer, this makes a great keepsake.

### **Get a Pen Pal**

Pen pals are the writing gift that keeps on giving. Start with a simple prompt: ask your child to write about who they are, where they are from, and their friends. Then, find another 1st grade child to send the letter to (it is best to pair with someone you know so they will write back). Provide your child with subsequent writing ideas to write their pen pal about. This can include writing about a happy memory, telling the pen pal what they look for in friends, or sharing thoughts about an event.

### **Use Your Imagination**

There are lots of ways to get creative and use one's imagination when writing during the summer time. For example, ask your child to write a summer-themed story about their best friend or about their pet. Or, have the child write about some of these ideas:

- \* What do they think would happen if holidays that happen in other seasons took place in summer?
- \* What is their dream treehouse?
- \* Even if you can't go on vacation or to the beach, you can still have your child write about what it would be like to do those things.

\* You can also ask them to imagine a day in 2nd grade in anticipation of next school year.

\* Visit this website for more fantastic summer writing ideas for kids.

## **MATH**

### **Addition and Subtraction Facts**

Students should be fluent with their basic math facts as we will build upon these in second grade and it will lead to higher order mathematics.

One way to help students become fluent in basic math facts is to teach mental math strategies. Below is a list of some of these strategies.

#### **Mental Math Strategies to Build Math Fact Fluency**

##### **Addition:**

Plus zero ( $4+0=4$ )

Count up +1

Count up +2

Count up +3

Flip/Flop (communitive property:  $3+2=5$   $2+3=5$ )

Doubles ( $8+8=16$ )

Doubles +1 ( $8+9$ , think:  $8+8=16$   $+1=17$ )

Plus 10

Plus 9

##### **Subtraction:**

Minus Zero ( $5-0=5$ )

A number minus itself ( $7-7=0$ )

Count back -1

Count back -2

Count back -3

Doubles ( $16-8=8$ )

Minus 10

Minus 9

Another way to build math facts fluency is have your child spend 10-15 minutes a day to practice their math facts using the math fact strategies (above). You can have them practice with games, flash cards, problems on white boards, etc.

Here are some suggested activities and websites to help students recall facts and increase fluency:

<https://www.mathplayground.com/games.html>

Practice math facts with these fun free online math games. Choose from many fun addition and subtraction games...and more!

<http://www.abcya.com/>

Find learning videos, games, and more on this educational website!

[www.education.com](http://www.education.com)

This website offers worksheets, games, stories, activities, lessons and so much MORE! Parents, this is a fantastic resource for any type of learner.

<https://www.coolmath-games.com/1-addition-subtraction-games>

More fun online addition and subtraction games.

<http://www.multiplication.com/games/play/quick-flash-addition>

<http://www.multiplication.com/games/play/quick-flash-subtraction>

Addition and Subtraction flash cards online- students can practice their facts and increase fluency of their addition and subtraction. Find additional addition and subtraction games here also!

### **Math Games and Manipulatives**

<https://filefolderfun.com/FirstGradeMath>

This site provides printable math manipulatives AND is an awesome resource for printable math games and activities to play at home that review first grade concepts and prepare students for second grade topics!

### **Math Concepts Review Worksheets**

<http://www.k5learning.com/free-math-worksheets/first-grade-1>

Select from first grade math concepts to review with printable math practice problems.

### **No Prep Games**

- Addition/Subtraction Roll 'Em: Using a pair of dice, player one will roll the dice and add together the 2 numbers. Then player two will roll the dice and add the 2 numbers together. The person with the higher number wins that round. Record a point for that person. At the end, the person with the most points wins. You can play the same way but subtracting the numbers and the person with the lower number wins the round.
- Card Addition: Using a deck of playing cards, give each player an equal amount of cards. Each person flips over the top two cards from their pile and adds them together. Whoever gets the highest number collects all the cards from that round. When all cards have been played, the person with the most cards collected wins the game.

### **Questions for Math Talk**

It is important for students to not only be able to solve math problems but to also be able to explain their thinking. Below is a list of questions to ask your child as you practice math problems at home.

- Compare \_\_\_\_\_. How are they the same? How are they different?
- If you do this instead, what will happen?

- Why did you decide to .....?
- Explain how you did....?
- Describe why you did....?
- What does (this) \_\_\_\_\_ represent?
- How did you know which \_\_\_\_\_?
- How did you know when \_\_\_\_\_?
- Consider how you could use other math tools to \_\_\_\_\_.
- How could you record your work?
- How did you predict what the answer would be?

### **Math Key Words**

Your child should be able to recognize the key words below and identify which operation they indicate.

#### **Addition Words:**

total  
altogether  
join  
both  
in all  
sum  
plus  
combined  
increase  
together  
add

#### **Subtraction Words:**

How many more?  
decrease  
less than  
take away  
minus  
difference  
left  
remains  
comparison words ("er" words)- larger, fewer, shorter, faster, longer, etc.)  
How much more?

## **SCIENCE**

### **Explore Outdoors**

There is a limitless supply of fun, easy and readily available (and free!) things to do outdoors that encourage children to compare, observe, explore and experiment. From overturning large rocks after a rainstorm to reveal wiggly earthworms to making gigantic bubbles, warm summer days brim with science potential. Frogs, lizards, butterflies, caterpillars, nests, and ponds all invite observation of habitats and ecosystems. Set up multiple bird feeders, each with different types of seed, and see what happens. On hot days, make rainbows with a sprinkler, tumble ice cream in a coffee can, or create sun prints. In an open space, kites, frisbees, and paper airplanes all use basic principles of flight. One plane flies far, and the other doesn't? Ask why!

## **Explore the Kitchen**

The kitchen is another easily accessible place that invites all kinds of family science investigations. Baking or cooking with your children reinforces math and reading skills and encourages science questions. What happens when you mix those two ingredients together? Why do you need baking soda in those cookies? How does Jell-O stay together? Do all fruits have the same number of seeds? Food science can be fun, but not all recipes for kitchen science are to eat. Add a bit of food coloring to the water in a vase of white carnations for a colorful example of capillary action or oil, water and Alka-Seltzer for a homemade lava lamp. Mix up batches of silly putty, salt dough, or homemade chalk. Reuse empty glass jars to grow and compare salt- and sugar-based crystals on a string. Seal a slice of bread in another jar and use a microscope to watch what grows over the next few days. Ask why!

## **Grow Something**

Indoors or out, letting your kids grow their own flowers, herbs, or vegetables creates a long-term learning activity that encourages monitoring and observation. Plant seeds in an empty egg carton or grow a houseplant in water from a carrot, pineapple, radish, or last night's avocado pit. Do all plants need soil? Ask why!

## **Build Something**

When kids build with blocks or Legos, they can compare structures, think about the relationship between height and stability and investigate what stands and what falls. Assemble a marble-run kit from an assortment of household items, including toilet paper holders, plastic funnels, small train track pieces, cardboard, and lots of tape. If you are at the beach, experiment with sand castle building. Do you need water? Ask why!

## **Enjoy the Night**

Stay up a bit later on a clear summer night and spend time looking at the stars and pointing out constellations. Locate Venus and talk to your kids about the planets. If fireflies are in your area, catching some at twilight in jars (with holes in the lids) is a wonderful way to observe bioluminescence. Some organisms glow. Ask why!

## **Think Outside the Box**



Don't let what you remember of "classroom science" be the ruler against which you measure what counts as a meaningful at-home science activity for your children. Your most innovative ideas might turn out to be the most memorable and rewarding moments of the summer. For example, plan a scavenger hunt: hand out a science-inspired list of crazy things to find and turn the kids loose. Scavenger hunts are perfect for the park, beach, camping, or on vacation. Things to seek: feathers, shells, rocks, pine cones, and leaves. Include a ruler and make size part of the requirements or include a pencil and an index card and make an on-location sketch worth extra points!