

SECOND GRADE

Child Development: Ages 7–8

Physical Development

When observing these students in the classroom, they tend to:

- Have improved physical abilities, but are somewhat awkward and tense
- Be full of energy—these students do things in a hurry
- Need to play outside
- Like confined spaces

Language and Literacy Development

- Second graders listen well and speak precisely, but may not remember all that they've heard.
- They enjoy one-to-one conversations and have rapidly expanding vocabularies.
- They develop their vocabularies quickly by showing great interest in the meanings of words.
- Like most young children, second graders tend to exaggerate.

Self Concept, Identity, and Motivation:

As young second graders grow and mature, they become very inward-looking and reflective. These young students can become moody, touchy, and depressed. They need humor and games to help moderate their seriousness in and outside of the classroom.

These young students need structure and to feel secure. They do not like taking risks or making mistakes. Changes to their daily environments can be very upsetting. Students at this age begin to take care in their belongings and will become neater and more organized at school and home.

Older second graders enjoy socializing and being with friends in group activities.





Peer Relations

At this age, students may:

- Care more about friends; however, they may change friendships frequently with the explanation of “nobody likes me.”
- Become sensitive to others’ feelings and develop strong likes and dislikes.
- Enjoy socializing and love group activities especially with the same gender.
- Form larger friendship groups.



Moral Development

At this age, second grade students are becoming very interested in fairness issues.

As second graders grow, they begin to enjoy studying other cultures.

Although these young students do not like taking risks or making mistakes, second graders adjust well to change.



Cognitive Development

Younger Second Graders:

- Learn best through repetitive and review activities and hands-on explorations.
- Bothered by mistakes—they work hard to make their work “perfect.” They are comfortable with an emphasis on high-quality products.
- Enjoy memorization and classifying activities
- Not fully able to read without vocalizing—enjoy being read to
- May find tests troublesome

Older Second Graders:

- Begin to master handwriting, handcrafts, computers, and drawing.
- Limited attention span, but tend to become engrossed in activity. These students need more short assignments rather than a few, long assignments.
- Students are industrious, impatient, and work quickly. They can handle complex tasks, but tire easily.
- Increasing interest in rules, logic, and how things work.