

Summer Reading

Dear Future Second Graders,

We're looking forward to having you in our second grade classes next year. Reading should be a fun part of every day and we'll be involved with lots of exciting reading projects in class.

During the first week of school, we will be doing some wonderful activities based on your summer reading books. In order to participate, you need to read two mystery books. Here is a list of suggested books. Enjoy!



The Second Grade Teachers

_____ read these mystery books:

1. _____ (title)

2. _____ (title)

Parent signature _____

Please bring this form on the first day of school.

Some Suggestions for Second Grade Mystery Books

(Students are also welcome to select books not mentioned here.)

Level 1 Books

I Spy a School Bus

I Spy Funny Teeth

What Am I?

Who Took the Farmer's Hat?

Who Took the Cookies from the Cookie Jar?

The Missing Mitten Mystery

Clifford Big Red Reader: The Mystery of the Kibble Crook

Level 2 Books

The Art Teacher from the Black Lagoon

Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Dinosaur Bones

Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Stolen Diamonds

Jigsaw Jones and the Case of the Spooky Sleepover

Marty Frye, Private Eye

Level 3 Books

The Boxcar Children

The Haunting of Grade Three

Invisible Inc: The Schoolyard Mystery

The Littles and the Lost Children

The Littles Go Exploring

Pirates Don't Wear Pink Sunglasses

Pony Pals: Detective Pony

The Spray Paint Mystery

Summer Tips for Building Reading Skills as your child prepares for Grade 2

- Take your child to the library each week to select books that interest him/her. The librarian can help you find popular titles.
- As a reward, take him/her to the bookstore to buy a new book.
- Keep a star chart for every book your child reads to you. Celebrate after ten books by doing a special activity, such as going out for a walk in the park alone with one parent.
- Join a summer reading program at the children's library or local bookstore.
- Read to your child each day from a variety of interesting books. (Encourage caregivers to read to him as well.) These books should include:

Science, animals, geography, biographies, and history

Fairy tales and myths

Poetry (try funny ones)

Picture books with high-quality illustrations

- Include chapter books when selecting books to read about. By reading longer stories, you will help develop your child's vocabulary, attention, and thinking skills. Good choices for chapter books include *Charlotte's Web*, *My Father's Dragon*, *Stuart Little*, and *Peter Pan*.
- Talk to your child about the books during and after reading. What is going to happen next? Which character do you like best? Can you think of a different ending?
- Play word games such as *Junior Scrabble*. Strategy games can develop attention span and focus. Good games to try are *Connect Four*, *Mastermind*, *Checkers*, *Racko*, and *Concentration*. Some other activities that require attention are drawing, building, and karate.
- Encourage your child to make up his/her own stories. Provide materials to write some of them down and offer help in getting the words on paper.
- Purchase or borrow computer phonic games such as "Reader Rabbit Second Grade" and "Jump Start Second Grade".
- Encourage letter writing to friends and family during the summer.
- Ask your child to help make lists of household tasks or errands.
- Set aside time for listening to books on tape. (Headphones make this a perfect summer travel activity.) Remind your child to follow along in the book, if you have it.
- Together with your child, create a cozy reading place.
- Remember, watching television and videos **does not** help a child develop reading skills.