FAMILY SUPPORT: SECOND GRADE READER

◆ Keep reading to your child, even when he or she can read independently.
◆ Provide time for your child to read at night (15–30 minutes).
◆ Encourage your child to practice reading aloud to siblings, relatives, or senior citizens.
◆ Use the public library for storyteller sessions, books on tape, book lists, and recommendations.
◆ Look for books that match your child's interests. (Bookstore staff, librarians, and your child's teacher can help you.)
◆ Talk about how you select books and the types of things you like to read.
◆ Have your child keep a list of books he or she finishes or would like as gifts.
◆ Help your child learn how to find information in books.
◆ Model how you look up words you don’t know in a dictionary.
◆ Subscribe to children's magazines, such as Kid City, Ranger Rick, or Contact Kids.
◆ Talk about the characters from books, movies, and television programs.
◆ Read and compare several versions of a story (such as a fairy tale or folktale).
◆ When your child reads aloud and makes a mistake, don’t correct your child right way. Provide enough time for your child to self-correct.
◆ Talk with your child about his/her reading strategies. Give positive encouragement.
◆ Play word games, such as Boggle, Hangman, or Junior Scrabble.
◆ Cook together. Ask your child to read and explain the directions.
◆ Ask relatives to send your child postcards when they go on trips.
FAMILY SUPPORT: SECOND GRADE WRITER

◆ Read chapter books aloud to your child. Reading provides a model of story structure.

◆ Talk about lovely language, descriptions, and details in the books you read together.

◆ Point out the beginning, middle, and end of stories. Discuss the exciting parts or parts that made you want to read more.

◆ Provide empty notebooks or blank books to use as journals or diaries.

◆ Keep Post-it notes in the car and around the house for notes and messages.

◆ If you have a computer, provide writing programs (such as Creative Writer, Writer Rabbit).

◆ Give your child a children’s dictionary.

◆ Discuss the types of writing you do at home and at work (such as checks, lists, and memos).

◆ Suggest writing topics (things you’ve done as a family, family stories, trips).

◆ Make books together about trips, events, holidays, and your family.

◆ Encourage your child to make books about their interests (such as soccer, horses).

◆ Encourage your child to write to friends and relatives who will answer promptly.

◆ Respond to the ideas and content first when your child shares his or her writing.

◆ Point out patterns in English as your child tries to spell challenging words.

◆ When asked, help your child by focusing on one skill at a time (for instance, only discuss how “y” is changed to “ies” when making a plural word like “babies”).

◆ Be encouraging as your child tackles longer writing pieces and begins to revise and edit.

◆ Be a supportive audience for your child’s writing.