



Second graders become more fluent in their reading. They are able to employ decoding strategies more rapidly and can answer more complex comprehension questions. As you read with your child, try asking questions before moving to the next page like “what do you think will happen next?” or “How do you think that made the character feel?” These questions help your child to think critically about what they are hearing and reading. Try asking questions that you can ask contextually that will challenge your child to think about the story in more complex ways.

The International Baccalaureate Program looks to create students who are caring, inquirers, and knowledgeable with a focus on intercultural awareness. The learner profile is at its core and is used daily in discussions with students and is the center of many lessons. For parents, knowledge of the learner profile provide a unique ability to create a home-school connection. Talk with your child about being CARING, COURAGEOUS, REFLECTIVE, BALANCED, PRINCIPLED, OPEN-MINDED, KNOWLEDGEABLE, a COMMUNICATOR, an INQUIRER, and a THINKER.

At this age, your child should be demonstrating a true hand dominance when writing and they should hold the pencil in a [dynamic tripod grasp](#). This mature hand position develops as the nervous system matures and allows for improved legibility and speed of writing. You can promote an improved tripod grasp by having your child paint or draw on an inclined surface like an easel or by putting paper on the wall. This forces the wrist into extension and makes other grasps more difficult to maintain.

Right and wrong starts to solidify in second graders and this may impact their relationships if others are not playing a game based on the rules. This is a good opportunity as parents to teach our children the [the gift of problem solving](#). This [Love and Logic](#) method sends the message to our children that we believe in them and trust in their ability to solve their own problems. This method also allows the parent to provide empathy and loving guidance.

Your teachers want you to know that a major tenet in the second grade, outside of academics, is teaching responsibility. They are looking at students to remember to bring something home or back to school; and if they forget, not to say “My Mom forgot to put it in my backpack”. They want the children to take ownership for their work and expectations. Using the agenda or [posting a checklist on the door](#) for them to see as they head out to school can help them to acquire and integrate important [executive function skills](#) for greater success as a student.

For more on developmental stages and parenting information, contact your Thrive Parent Liaison, Lori Swenson at [lsvenson@bssd72.org](mailto:lsvenson@bssd72.org) or 995-4281.