



2nd Grade Developmental Guide

The biggest developmental jump in the life of a 2nd grader is in the area of social development. Kids are beginning to develop significant friendships and recognize the needs and feelings of others. Another big milestone is in the area of reading. This year children will read more independently than they have in any of the previous years.

Here are some of the developmental changes they are experiencing right now.

Physical

- Can have vast differences in their size and physical abilities, as compared to other 2nd graders, which may affect self-concept
- May not want to rest when tired
- Should be riding a two-wheel bicycle
- Can do simple chores like making the bed, sweeping the floor, etc.
- Have well-developed hand-eye coordination

Emotional

- Are sensitive to adult evaluation
- Care very much about fairness
- Become more serious
- Begin to reason logically
- Want to assume more responsibility
- Have a rising level of confidence as a student

Relational

- Compare themselves to others, which can lead to self-criticism
- Place importance on having friendships
- Seek security in groups, clubs, etc.
- Begin to understand others' perspectives

Spiritual

- Still see things as right or wrong, black or white, with no middle ground
- Begin to recognize differences in others' beliefs (They may have questions regarding why other children believe differently than they do.)
- Can understand reasoning and make right decisions
- Have a tendency to worry more than they did in the past
- Have a lessening need for punishment, though discipline is constantly occurring
- Need encouragement from parents, particularly because self-comparison is high during this time