

**About Mathematics Homework** (page 1 of 2)

Dear Family,

Homework is an important link between learning in school and out of school. It can extend the work students do in class, provide the opportunity to practice previously learned skills, or prepare students for the next day's lesson.

In Grade 2, math homework activities include working on addition and subtraction problems, playing a game we learned in class, collecting information (from family members) for a data project, or solving a story problem.

Here are some suggestions for making the homework experience successful for your child.

- Establish a quiet place to work (whether at home, in an after-school program, or in some other place) and a system for bringing homework back and forth.
- Certain materials such as decks of Number Cards and game directions will be used again and again throughout the year. Since math materials will only be sent home once, please help your child find a safe place to store them—maybe in a folder, an envelope, or a shoebox—so that they can be easily located and used when needed. If your child regularly does homework in more than one place, we can talk about how to obtain the necessary materials.
- Children often use real objects to solve math problems. Please provide a collection of 30–40 small objects, such as beans, buttons, or pennies, for your child to use at home. These can

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be stored in a plastic bag or small container and kept with other math materials.

- While working on math problems at home, encourage your child to solve problems and record work in ways that make sense to him or her. Some children will use numbers and equations, some will use pictures or charts, others will use words, and many will use a combination of these methods. We want all students to use problem-solving methods that are meaningful to them.
- If your child asks for your help in solving some of these problems, it may be helpful for you to ask him or her questions such as: What's a good place to start? Does this problem remind you of anything you've done in school? What are you trying to figure out?

For story problems, these questions might be helpful: Can you draw a picture of what is happening in this problem? Can you tell me what is happening in this story? Do you think at the end of the story there will be more or fewer than there were at the beginning?

If you would like to share any thoughts with me about how your child is approaching a homework task, please feel free to send me a note. If a task seems too difficult or is confusing, please let me know so I can address the issue. I look forward to working with you and your child throughout the year.