

Dear Family,

Second grade has begun, and your child is reading *The Superkids Hit Second Grade*, which is Level 5 of the Superkids Reading Program. This level builds upon skills children learned in previous years and takes their reading, spelling, and language skills to the next stage of development.

Most days of each week, your child will bring home a Backpack Page that suggests ways your child can practice two very important skills: spelling and reading fluency.

Each week, your child will be given a spelling list and a test on the words at the end of the week. Some words on the list, called **Pattern Words**, follow sound-spelling patterns children learned in kindergarten and first grade. Children can spell these words by sounding them out, remembering patterns or rules they have learned. The other words, called **Memory Words**, don't follow the rules. Children have to memorize the spelling of these words. The weekly spelling test will include a few of the Pattern Words and all of the Memory Words. The Backpack Pages give your child ways to practice spelling words at home before taking the test.

Fluency is the ability to read accurately and quickly. Fluent readers sound natural when they read aloud, as if they are speaking. Fluency is important because it is the bridge between recognizing words and understanding their meaning. Children's overall fluency improves when they practice reading the same text aloud three or four times. Once each chapter, your child will bring home a Backpack Page that contains a story he or she has read in class. Help your child practice reading it aloud with the goal of reading with greater fluency.

Second grade itself is a kind of bridge between learning to read, the child's most important task in kindergarten and first grade, and reading to learn, the child's most important task in future years. The spelling and fluency skills your child practices at home will help your child cross this bridge successfully to become a lifelong reader and learner.

Sincerely,

_____ and
Second-Grade Teacher

Reasau N. Rowland

Author of the Superkids Reading Program
Founder of Rowland Reading Foundation

P.S. If you have any questions about your child's progress throughout the year, please don't hesitate to contact me at _____.