



Learning Ideas to do at Home With Year 2 Children

Research shows students see greater success in school when they spend time talking, reading, playing, and creating with their families. There are many things you do in your home and community that translate into amazing learning opportunities for your child. Here are some ideas:

Learning Routines

If you receive learning activities from school, create a schedule and learning space with your child so you have a daily routine to complete lessons and share learning experiences.

If you do not receive learning activities from school, create a schedule with your child that includes time for things they need to work on and things they are curious about exploring deeply. Keep it simple, fun and provide opportunities for lots of movement and brain breaks.

Everyday Maths.

Maths is all around us. Look for opportunities to talk about math as a family and share math stories and games.

- Household activities and chores have built-in math opportunities.
- Have your child help set and clear the table. They can count, multiply, subtract and divide items based on their age.
- Folding and sorting laundry provides an opportunity to sort and categorize for young learners and to talk about geometry with older students.
- Menu and meal planning is a great time to talk about the cost of items.
- Cooking together is an opportunity to read, follow directions, and practice fractions. Have older children double or half a recipe and estimate how much they need to make to feed the family. Have younger children measure and estimate.
- When driving, on the bus, or on the train, talk about how far you are going, how much time it will take to get there, count things, skip count, or ask silly questions like "Would it take longer for us, a giraffe or a cheetah to get there?"
- Play card, dice, or board games.
- Google 'thunks' – these are great questions which generally do not have a right or wrong answer. An example might be 'is a zebra white with black stripes or black with white stripes?'
- Create a scavenger hunt for various shapes.
- Use household objects to create maths puzzles.
- Work on a puzzle together.
- Use places like the grocery store to weigh, measure, compare prices, and more.
- Tell maths stories and include things your child is interested in.

- Make a simple snakes and ladders game together. If you do not have a dice, many smart phones have a dice app. Alternatively, write the numbers 1-6 on pieces of paper and place them in a pot. Pick out a number to decide how many spaces to move.

Reading and Storytelling

Find ways to make reading and storytelling an adventure. Make it something special and enjoyable.

- Have your child find special places to read. Make forts, read while having a snack, pretend you are in different countries, and read with a new accent.
- If your child is a beginning or early reader take turns reading with them with some of these strategies: My Turn Your Turn where you take turns reading a paragraph or page. Choral Reading where you read at the same time. Echo Reading where you read first and your child echoes the same sentence or paragraph you just read. Act It Out where you act out the story together or pretend to be characters in the story and read the lines.
- Bug club – This is an online reading scheme which your child has seen in school. Each time a child reads a book they are rewarded with virtual coins to spend on games, items for their tree house or sticker book.
- Pie Corbett story telling is a great, fun and active way of story telling. Key words have an action which makes it easier for the children to remember the story. Put '*The Gingerbread Man / Pie Corbett's Storyteller*' into Google to find an example of this.
- Tell stories together. They can be family stories, stories from when you or they were young, stories you heard when you were a child, build stories together by taking turns coming up with one word or one sentence and passing to the next person.
- Listen to stories or educational podcasts.
- Watch a family movie and talk about the characters, setting, plot. What made it a good story?

Writing Together

Look for opportunities to write and draw together.

- Use everyday materials in your house to write and mark make such as shaving foam spread thinly on a surface, food colouring and water in a spray gun, sticks and mud in the garden.
- Walks are a great way to get some imaginative ideas for stories. If you walk past a pile of leaves, a hole or something unusual ask your child who might live there, what might they be doing. A large part of story writing is the planning and talking about ideas.
- Write a story together based on the ideas that you have spoken about.
- Create a book all about me and my family.
- Create a scrap book of favourite things or special people.
- Caption and label photographs or drawings.
- Talk about your Heroes. Draw a picture and tell the story about why they are a hero to you.
- Take a walk and a note pad. Draw and/or label items that you see which are unusual, red, big, etc.

Games to Play

- Enjoy oral language and vocabulary games during downtime or while running errands.
- I Spy is a game where one person describes something they spy and the other person tries to guess what it is. Make the descriptions as vivid as possible.
- I'm Thinking Of is a similar game but the players can describe anything they are thinking or things in an agreed upon category like numbers. For example, "I'm thinking of a number that is bigger than 10 and smaller than 12" or "I'm thinking of a shape that looks like a snake."
- Take turns thinking of rhyming words. Trade off who picks the first word to rhyme, and see how many rhyming words you can come up with.
- Make a tongue twister out of your names like "Sweet Sally Sue Sat Sipping Cinnamon Soda."
- Think of favourite games from your childhood and play with your child, such as Cat Catching Mice, Catch the Dragon's Tail, Loteria, Bingo, Memory, and more.
- Get moving: Do yoga together, play red light green light, Simon says, freeze dance, make an obstacle course or play follow the leader.
- Design a new game together and play it.

Enjoy the Arts Together

Take time to listen to music and enjoy art together.

- Listen to your favourite music and music you don't like. Talk about why. Try closing your eyes and see what images come to mind when a song is playing.
- Get moving by dancing together, playing freeze dance, or playing musical chairs.
- Write a song about your family together. Make it silly or poetic.
- Draw together.
- Create and build with recycled materials.
- Look up how to create something you are curious about like a paper airplane, magical creature house, etc.

Physical development

- Walks. ☺ Walks are free and have lots of learning opportunities whilst getting some exercise.
- Cosmic Kids Yoga can be found on YouTube and is a create way to get active whilst practicing control.
- Joe Wicks Body Coach sessions – again, these can be found on YouTube and are a fun sessions for all the family.
- Fine motor activities such as LEGO building and threading are great to develop the hand muscles and improve writing quality. Pasta and wool is a cheap and easy way to practice this.

Science Experiments

- Talk about our senses and how they help us understand the world, how we use them to look for evidence, describe the world around us, make words come to life when we write, etc.
- Explore what you are curious about. How can you find information about it? What would you like to learn?

- Plan and try a scientific experiment together.

Other ideas

- The Cub Scout website has many different activity ideas from science, arts, cooking, photography and even DIY! Go to <https://www.scouts.org.uk/cubs/activity-badges/> for some ideas.