

Standards for Mathematical Practice – Characteristics of a Mathematician – Second Grade

<i>Standards</i>	<i>Explanations and Examples</i>
2.MP.1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.	In second grade, students realize that doing mathematics involves solving problems and discussing how they solved them. Students explain to themselves the meaning of a problem and look for ways to solve it. They may use concrete objects or pictures to help them conceptualize and solve problems. They may check their thinking by asking themselves, “Does this make sense?” They make conjectures about the solution and plan out a problem-solving approach.
2.MP.2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.	Younger students recognize that a number represents a specific quantity. They connect the quantity to written symbols. Quantitative reasoning entails creating a representation of a problem while attending to the meanings of the quantities. Second graders begin to know and use different properties of operations and relate addition and subtraction to length.
2.MP.3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.	Second graders may construct arguments using concrete referents, such as objects, pictures, drawings, and actions. They practice their mathematical communication skills as they participate in mathematical discussions involving questions like “How did you get that?”, “Explain your thinking,” and “Why is that true?” They not only explain their own thinking, but listen to others’ explanations. They decide if the explanations make sense and ask appropriate questions.
2.MP.4. Model with mathematics.	In early grades, students experiment with representing problem situations in multiple ways including numbers, words (mathematical language), drawing pictures, using objects, acting out, making a chart or list, creating equations, etc. Students need opportunities to connect the different representations and explain the connections. They should be able to use all of these representations as needed.
2.MP.5. Use appropriate tools strategically.	In second grade, students consider the available tools (including estimation) when solving a mathematical problem and decide when certain tools might be better suited. For instance, second graders may decide to solve a problem by drawing a picture rather than writing an equation.
2.MP.6. Attend to precision.	As children begin to develop their mathematical communication skills, they try to use clear and precise language in their discussions with others and when they explain their own reasoning.
2.MP.7. Look for and make use of structure.	Second graders look for patterns. For instance, they adopt mental math strategies based on patterns (making ten, fact families, doubles).
2.MP.8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.	Students notice repetitive actions in counting and computation, etc. When children have multiple opportunities to add and subtract, they look for shortcuts, such as rounding up and then adjusting the answer to compensate for the rounding. Students continually check their work by asking themselves, “Does this make sense?”