Second grade is a year of highly visible progress in reading and language arts. The major milestones in second grade reading and language arts are:

- Developing an extensive sight word vocabulary
- Applying more complex phonics strategies
- Writing competently for many purposes
- Using punctuation appropriately
- Experiencing a variety of literary genres

Second grade is also a year of exploration and discovery of the numbers in the world around us. Major milestones for 2nd grade math include:

- Applying numbers sense to the four basic operations
- Understanding the use of money in real life situations
- Developing spatial reasoning in relation to geometric shapes
- Applying the various methods of measurement
- Exploring probability and using data