

Kindergarten – Second Grade Overview

Students in primary grades are developing self-concepts, motor skills, and social relationships. They need opportunities for first-hand experiences in solving problems and manipulating real objects. Language development is an integral part of their learning experience.

Young students learn best through exploration and interaction with peers and adults. Technology lends itself to this style of learning. Developmentally appropriate activities should be planned to provide students with opportunities to utilize technology skills as they accomplish curriculum objectives.

Digital media content provides broad experiences through video, images, and sounds from around the world. Open-ended software allows students to practice problem solving in safe, creative environments. The use of interactive Web sites creates interest in reading and develops decoding and comprehension skills. Written and verbal expression is enhanced through multimedia presentations; desktop publishing of students' creative writing; and videotaping of show and tell, drama, and poetry recitations. Students become accustomed to utilizing technology tools when technology is integrated into a variety of learning situations.

Effective teachers help students construct knowledge from information gathered from online curriculum projects, electronic databases, and other technology resources supported by productivity software such as graphing and drawing tools. Responsible, ethical, and safe use of technology systems is modeled by the teacher and internalized by students as they begin their journey into the global community as digital citizens.

The inherent motivation created by using digital tools can increase students' interest and excitement for learning. Technology education equips them with skills that will enhance not only their formal educational years but also their professional and personal lives.