

## 2GRD DoAheads

There are plenty of things you can do to get a jump on next year. This checklist follows the organization on the Primary Grades webpage. All underlined titles are buttons. If you want editable versions, go to [littleschoolhouseinthesuburbs.com/editable](http://littleschoolhouseinthesuburbs.com/editable).

### Get Your Bearings

- Read the Intro to 2GRD**. I'm on my fifth round teaching K and I still refer back to it.
- Print these Do-Aheads**. I have no idea why I didn't make these printable before!

### Gather Supplies

- Print the 2GRD Supply List**. I keep mine in my grade-level book box. I dump *everything* into that box as I find, order, or print it. I only check off what's *sitting in the box*. I often take all summer and into the fall to gather everything.
- Old Plans: Print the 2GRD Science Supplies** for Usbourne. Start gathering.
- New MoDG Book Plans: Print the \*New\* 2GRD Science** list. Start gathering.
- Read the Blank Books post** and decide. I use the Bare Books 6x8.

### Religion

- Check out my generic liturgical calendar** or if you already have the syllabi, email me for the one with all the MoDG books scheduled. Use the calendar to make smart book buying decisions. Notice how MANY books are during Tgiving, Xmas, Spring, and Summer breaks.
- Print the PB of Saints By Date**. The real TOC is a pain.
- Look at the 1GRD and 2GRD Catechism printables**. It's unnecessary, but handy.
- Alternatively, go to the Master Memory Book page down in the poetry section**. I make little half-size books of all the memory work so I have it all in one place.

### Math

- Remember that Speed Drills are for already learned facts**. You can use them any way you like, but just FYI.
- Read my 2GRD 90/10 Manual**: It will totally save your sanity.
- Buy Math-It USED**, if you buy it at all. It's too expensive new, for what it is. For some of us, this is the first of the 3 "regret" purchases of the K-7 curriculum. (The other is a calligraphy book in 6th and the Art Memo game in 7th) If you've been doing the drill in Abeka, you don't need it anyway. Also, we have been using Reflex Math through homeschool buyers. co-op for 2GRD and up for years. Even at retail price, two years of it is less than Math it.
- Put math facts in the schedule MORE OFTEN**. The old syllabi only have you use it weekly, (haven't seen the new ones) but you need to do it or another math facts drill multiple times each week.

\*I use Teaching Textbooks 3 *online* now in 2nd grade. It includes drill.

## Literature

- ❑ **Say aloud, “It doesn’t matter how many books we read as long as it’s all *good stuff!*”**  
Don’t try to “get through” the book list. Formation is not about comprehensive content, just QUALITY content. If the book is GOOD, read it as many times as you like. Measure success in minutes per day, not # of titles completed.
- ❑ **Check out the 2GRD Lit Plan and 2GRD BOV Plan** (Book of Virtues). From the school resources, it’s clear that Berquists didn’t rigidly stratify by grade-level for read alouds, just divided into bigs and littles. If you have multiple K-2 kids going, do not make yourself crazy trying to keep them separate. Laura only stratified by grade because parents kept asking.

## Reading and Spelling

- ❑ **Read the Reading Overview.** Decide what you think of it.
- ❑ **Check the “After 100EZ” list.** It’s in your copy in the back too.
- ❑ **If your child is struggling, print the Sight Words Not Taught.** We do phonograms up to 6GRD to some “sight” memorization isn’t going to derail anything.
- ❑ **Check out the recommended reading practice for both 1GRD and 2GRD.** The levels might be too high. If so, print my Learn to Read Alone List.
- ❑ **Somewhere on your Mom notebook, write “Copy, copy, copy”** That’s the language arts focus this year. We’d like to build up to 5 solid minutes of copying by the end of the year. (However, for many of us, that’s 3GRD.)
- ❑ **Choose a handwriting plan.** There are three choices, and if you count the WRTR handwriting next year, there are four! Sound Beginnings has manuscript instructions. The Writing Can Help series (old plans) divides the year into manuscript and cursive. I haven’t used the Writing Our Catholic Faith one for 2 grade, but in other grades, they’re black and white. The secular version has identical skills and is in color.
- ❑ **Make sure you understand how Sound Beginnings works.** Pretend to teach the first four to six weeks in your head and see if you know what you’d be doing. It’s weird.
- ❑ **Also, notice the wacky schedule.** Since SB is built on a five day schedule, but MoDG only does 4 days a week, the assignments don’t feel consistent. And, the spelling dictation is supposed to go across two or more days, but they’re often back to back. If you HATE that and see my personal Sound Beginnings 4-day Rework. Enter at your own risk.
- ❑ **Get a primary lined book or white board.** Alternatively, print my primary paper There’s a lot of writing in SB!

## Poetry

- ❑ **Print the K-2 Poetry.** Stick it in your mom notebook. You don’t need the *Harp and Laurel Wreath* now.
- ❑ **Go to the Master Memory Book page.** Print the poems there for pasting in their illustration book. Almost no one copies all that by hand.
- ❑ **Check out my Poetry Handwriting.** Some moms use it in lieu of a handwriting curriculum. Scroll down for 2GRD.

## Art & Music

- ❑ **Decide how to store supplies.** In our house, it's called the "Nazi Box." Remember the "Soup Nazi" from Seinfeld? That's me with art and science supplies. "No tape for you!" I put all the science and art supplies in a box and *no one can touch it*. If you use up the "house" glue sticks, do NOT come thieve the one I need for timelines! "No glue for you!"
- ❑ **Choose a crochet kit.** The syllabus says that any crochet instruction will do. We used the DVD Art of Crochet: 4 Kids, starring cute little boy, Ryan Anderson as the teacher. You will also need a ball of yarn and a needle (J size.) **OR DON'T.** Many families find that this is way too hard. We didn't get very far with any kid until they were much older. Get a METAL potholder set instead; the plastic kinds break.
- ❑ **Replace the Klutz tissue paper flower craft.** It's discontinued. Alex Toys has a kit for giant tissue flowers that will last you through several kids. It makes 36 flowers.
- ❑ **Old Bookless Plans: Check out my [Art Folders](#) post.** See what you think.
- ❑ **Old Bookless Plans: Go ahead and cut out your art cards.** I think the pdf that now comes to enrolled folks says to toss out Miro and Chagall. I can't remember if anything else is ugly. If the whole beautiful/ugly thing is as confusing to you as it was me, google up the Prager U Modern Art video. It helps.
- ❑ **Replace the Usborne recorder book.** It's out-of-print; we've used Nine-Note Recorder Method. (I really hate the recorder. These days we use SingSolfa.com. It's free and teaches sight singing.)
- ❑ **Old Book (Jemison) Plans: Check out my [K-2 GRD Hymn Links](#) or upload your CD to itunes and play it from there.** Also, my kids don't love the singer's voice. The links are more beautiful. If you can carry a tune, you'll quickly ditch the CD anyway.
- ❑ **Remember that evening music time in the sample schedule is NOT the 1 min hymn.** Berquists listened to Classical music before bed. I don't know why it's still in there if they aren't going to explain it or assign anything.

## OTHER TIPS (History/Geography)

- ❑ **Know the layout of your home and town.** Can you rattle off a drawing of your neighborhood or route to church? You'll need to do that this year.
- ❑ **Find out the birth years of your family members up to great-grandparents;** get a gauge on what time period they are so you can describe what daily life was like.
- ❑ **Look over the history books and pacing in the assignments.** These have yet to be read-alone for us. They start after Week 20 (or they used to; haven't done this grade in a few years.)
- ❑ **Check out Memory Jogger cards for states and capitals.** We love them. Their multiplication cards are good too. Addition/Subtraction not so much. Skip those.