

An incomplete list of K-2 classroom activities

WHAT WE DO	WHY WE DO IT
Reading Logs @ home	Reading to/with children DAILY increases their knowledge about words, ideas, and how they are used to communicate. Gives parents an opportunity to support child's interests and academic goals.
Buddy Reading	Children can choose literature for independent enjoyment and be mentored by or mentor another student. This can build confidence and reading fluency.
Predictable Charts (K)	Are written with children in a shared writing experience. Because they are predictable and repetitious they are multi-level and most children experience success. Will be made into class books for independent reading.
Predictable charts to cut-up sentences (K-1)	Students learn about word order, punctuation, and other age-appropriate grammar skills.
Morning/Daily Message	An interactive writing experience that includes teacher modeling & active writing/reading participation by students.
Journals	Gives children the opportunity to write for different reasons & provides insight into the level of understanding of each child of print concepts. Inventive spelling allows all children to write independently at their developmental level.
Show & Tell, Simon Says, Who Am I?, I Spy	Students learn to listen respectfully and speak clearly in coherent sentences. This is a way to practice communicating information, ideas, and sequence events.
Calendar Activities	Students learn through repetition: dates; days of the week; months; chart weather patterns; count up to 100 by 1s, 2s, 5s, 10s; describe seasons, holidays; understand larger units of time & sequencing, i.e., "last week", "day before & day after."
Kidwriting (Inventive Spelling)	This is a way to introduce children to writing before they learn conventional spelling. Children can begin using the letters and sounds they do know to write independently. With praise teacher underwrites the child's story using conventional spelling.
PE & Recess	To introduce life-long habits that will build and maintain strong, healthy bodies. There will be opportunities for running, jumping, climbing, crawling, throwing, balancing & group games.
Arts & crafts	To help develop in students an appreciation of the beautiful, both in God's creation and in human expression while nurturing their individual ability.
Music	Music provides children a set of skills that will help enhance their overall abilities. It improves memory, rhythm, & listening skills. Children will listen and move to different kinds of songs with different beats and rhythms.
Dramatic play	This provides opportunities to combine spoken language with imagination, to imitate, and to pretend to be someone or something else. It stimulates all areas of a child's growth and can in turn affect the child's success in school. Pretending allows children to transform real life, changing things from how they really are to how the child perceives them to be. (Western Illinois University Center for Best Practices in Early Childhood Education, www.wiu.edu/thecenter)
Computers/Technology	Hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills are developed when manipulating the computer's mouse. Technology used in classroom will include digital cameras, projectors, scanners & printers, "leap frog," mp3 players, books on CDs, educational videos, teacher guided internet research, etc.
Centers	Students work independently on various learning activities. Centers provide time for children to explore and practice skills. They also provide children with opportunities for hands-on learning, cooperative learning, social interaction, real-life problem solving, autonomous learning, and open-ended activities. Some types of centers include science, math, dramatic play, technology, listening, reading, writing, and include manipulatives like puzzles and blocks.