

Developmental Milestones for Children of Primary School Age

Year 2 – Aged 6-7

Important context: While age-based milestones are helpful guides, they're not rigid rules. Daily living skills develop at different rates, often unevenly or asynchronously, especially for neurodivergent learners. Use these milestones as a flexible reference, always considering each individual's unique profile.

Year 2 – 6-7 years	
Self-Help and Independence Skills	<p>Financial & Thinking Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Money Management: Recognizing coins/notes and understanding the basic concept of saving.<input type="checkbox"/> Problem Solving: Breaking down problems into smaller parts and thinking critically.<input type="checkbox"/> Time Awareness: Learning to read a clock and manage time for tasks. <p>Safety & Emergency Awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Contact: Memorizing a parent's phone number, full name, and address.<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Procedures: Knowing how to dial 999 (or local emergency number) and understanding basic safety rules, including online safety.<input type="checkbox"/> Street Safety: Understanding traffic signals and safe crossing. <p>Household Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen Skills: Making simple snacks or lunches (e.g., toast, sandwiches), using a butter knife safely, and clearing their plate to the sink.<input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning: Dusting, sweeping, and helping to set or clear the table.<input type="checkbox"/> Laundry: Sorting clothes and putting away their clean laundry. <p>Personal Care & Independence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Hygiene: Brushing teeth properly, showering/bathing independently, and brushing hair.<input type="checkbox"/> Dressing: Choosing clothes suited for the weather and dressing independently (managing buttons, zips and tying own shoelaces).<input type="checkbox"/> Organization: Packing and carrying their own school bag and keeping their room tidy.<input type="checkbox"/> Taking responsibilities for own possessions at school.

Social and Emotional Skills

For **Year 2 children (ages 6–7)**, social and emotional development is focused on building **friendships, learning to manage feelings, and developing cooperation and empathy**. Children are becoming more aware of others and are starting to regulate their behaviour with increasing independence, though they still need adult guidance.

Here's a clear breakdown:

Social Skills & Friendships

By Year 2, most children:

- Form and maintain **simple friendships**, though these may change frequently
- Enjoy playing in pairs and small groups
- Begin to **share, take turns, and cooperate** more consistently
- Start to understand rules in games and group activities
- May still need help resolving disagreements fairly
- Are influenced by peers but still rely heavily on adults for guidance

Emotional Awareness & Regulation

Children typically:



- Can identify basic emotions (happy, sad, angry, worried, excited)
- Begin to talk about how they feel, especially with support
- Are learning to **manage emotions**, but may still have outbursts
- Can calm down after upset with adult help
- Are developing patience but still find waiting difficult

Self-Confidence & Self-Esteem

- Show growing confidence in familiar tasks
- Respond well to praise and encouragement
- May compare themselves to others but in simple ways
- Can feel easily discouraged if tasks are difficult

Empathy & Understanding Others

- Begin to recognise when others are upset or happy
- Can show kindness and helpfulness
- Are starting to understand that others may have different feelings or ideas
- Still quite **egocentric** (see things mainly from their own point of view)

	<p> Independence & Responsibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow simple rules and routines with reminders • Begin to take responsibility for their behaviour (with adult support) • Make simple choices and understand basic consequences • Are still heavily guided by adults in social situations <p> Behaviour & Moral Understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand basic ideas of right and wrong • Often see fairness in simple terms (“that’s not fair!”) • Follow rules mainly to please adults or avoid consequences • Are beginning to understand why rules exist <p>Also;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Learning to share, take turns, and cooperate with others. <input type="checkbox"/> Developing friendships and understanding other feelings. <input type="checkbox"/> Beginning to take responsibility for their own actions. <input type="checkbox"/> Following classroom rules and routines. <input type="checkbox"/> Beginning to understand and manage their emotions (e.g., recognizing feelings like happiness, sadness, anger).
<p>Communication skills</p>	<p>Speaking & Listening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Speaking confidently in a group, sharing ideas clearly and listening to others. <input type="checkbox"/> Asking and answering questions to seek clarification or expand on ideas. <input type="checkbox"/> Describing events or stories using full sentences. <input type="checkbox"/> Participating in group discussions, offering their opinions and ideas. <input type="checkbox"/> Following instructions more independently and with less guidance.
<p>Physical (Fine and Gross Motor) Skills</p>	<p>Movement and Coordination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing to develop fine and gross motor skills (e.g., running, jumping, throwing). <input type="checkbox"/> Participating in team sports and understanding basic rules (e.g., football, basketball). <p>Fine Motor Skills (Handwriting):</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Writing & Drawing: Using a 3-fingered pencil grasp, writing smaller letters consistently on lines, and forming letters/numbers correctly. <input type="checkbox"/> Tool Usage: Using scissors with precision for complex shapes, using a knife and fork, and controlling glue/brushes, <p>Health & Fitness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Understanding the importance of physical activity for health. <input type="checkbox"/> Learning basic concepts of fitness (e.g., strength, stamina, flexibility).
<p>Learning (Secrets of Success)</p>	<p>Learning Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Can focus on a task for a short period <input type="checkbox"/> Follows 1–2 step instructions <input type="checkbox"/> Tries their best, even when something feels tricky <input type="checkbox"/> Talks about their ideas <input type="checkbox"/> Completes simple homework with support
<p>Academic Skills</p>	<p>In Year 2, which typically corresponds to children ages 6-7, the academic milestones build upon the foundational skills developed in Year 1. The focus continues to be on deepening their understanding of key subjects and preparing them for more complex learning in later years. Children in Year 2 are expected to have greater independence in their learning and develop more confidence in their abilities. Here are the key academic milestones for Year 2:</p> <p>English / Literacy</p> <p>Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Reading longer texts with greater fluency and understanding. <input type="checkbox"/> Recognizing and reading a wider range of sight words. <input type="checkbox"/> Using decoding skills (phonics) to sound out unfamiliar words. <input type="checkbox"/> Understanding and discussing story elements (characters, plot, setting, etc.). <input type="checkbox"/> Beginning to read for meaning and making predictions about what happens next in a story. <input type="checkbox"/> Understanding the difference between fiction and nonfiction. <input type="checkbox"/> Answering questions about the text, demonstrating comprehension (e.g., “Who is the main character?” or “What happened first in the story?”). <p>Writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Writing simple paragraphs, expanding on ideas with more detail.

- Using correct punctuation, including full stops, commas, question marks, and capital letters.
- Spelling common words correctly, and beginning to apply spelling rules (e.g., adding "ed" to form past tense).
- Writing for different purposes, such as writing stories, instructions, or lists.
- Using adjectives, conjunctions (and, but, because), and simple adverbs to add detail to writing.
- Writing in full sentences with proper structure.
- Beginning to understand and use basic grammar, such as plural forms and verb tense.

Mathematics

Number and Place Value:

- Recognizing, reading, and writing numbers up to 100.
- Understanding the value of digits in two-digit numbers (tens and ones).
- Counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s.
- Comparing and ordering numbers up to 100.
- Understanding the concept of odd and even numbers.

Addition and Subtraction:

- Adding and subtracting numbers within 100 using mental methods.
- Solving simple word problems involving addition and subtraction.
- Understanding and using number bonds to help with addition and subtraction (e.g., $10 + 8 = 18$).
- Using strategies to check answers (e.g., reversing addition and subtraction).

Multiplication and Division:

- Understanding the concept of multiplication as repeated addition.
- Beginning to understand basic multiplication tables (e.g., 2s, 5s, and 10s).
- Beginning to learn division as sharing or grouping.

Geometry:

- Recognizing and naming common 2D shapes (e.g., squares, rectangles, circles) and 3D shapes (e.g., cubes, spheres, cylinders).
- Describing the properties of shapes (e.g., number of sides, corners).
- Understanding symmetry and recognizing symmetrical shapes.
- Measuring and comparing lengths and heights using non-standard units (e.g., blocks, rulers).

- Understanding the concept of position and direction (e.g., left, right, up, down).

Measurement and Time:

- Telling time to the nearest five minutes on both analog and digital clocks.
- Understanding the concept of a full day, hours, minutes, and seconds.
- Measuring objects using standard units (e.g., centimeters, meters).
- Understanding the concept of weight and capacity using appropriate units (e.g., grams, kilograms, liters).

Data Handling:

- Collecting data and organizing it in simple charts or tables.
- Interpreting simple bar graphs or pictograms.

Science

Living Things:

- Identifying and describing different animals and their habitats.
- Understanding the basic needs of animals and humans (e.g., food, water, shelter).
- Recognizing the life cycle of some animals (e.g., butterfly, frog). Learning about plant growth and the parts of plants (roots, stems, leaves, flowers).

Materials and Their Properties:

- Identifying and grouping different materials (e.g., wood, plastic, metal).
- Understanding how materials are used based on their properties (e.g., hard, soft, flexible).
- Exploring the concept of changing materials (e.g., heating, cooling, mixing).

Physical Forces:

- Exploring simple forces, such as push, pull, and gravity.
- Understanding basic concepts of movement and how objects can be moved (e.g., rolling, sliding).

Seasons and Weather:

- Observing and recording weather patterns (e.g., sunny, rainy, cloudy).
- Understanding the seasons and how they affect daily life.

History & Geography

History:

- Learning about their own personal history (family, past events).

- Exploring historical figures and events, such as kings and queens, or famous explorers.
- Understanding the concept of "old" and "new" objects, and how life has changed over time.

Geography:

- Recognizing the world map and understanding the concept of continents and oceans.
- Identifying the United Kingdom (or their home country) on a map.
- Learning about different places, landmarks, and the physical features of the world (e.g., rivers, mountains).
- Understanding the different climate zones and habitats.

Art & Design

Creative Expression:

- Experimenting with different materials (e.g., paints, pastels, clay).
- Drawing and painting with more precision, focusing on detail.
- Creating collages or sculptures using various techniques.
- Learning about famous artists and exploring their work (e.g., Monet, Picasso).

Computing

Basic Computing Skills:

- Using a keyboard and mousepad with more accuracy.
- Be able to navigate websites to find where they need to access an app.
- Learning to open, save, and print files on a computer.
- Using educational apps or software to support learning.
- Exploring the internet for research in a safe and responsible manner.

Key Focus of Year 2:

- **Deepening Understanding:** In Year 2, children continue building on the skills from Year 1, with an increasing focus on independence and applying what they've learned to solve problems.
- **Confidence:** Students are encouraged to become more confident in their academic abilities, including reading longer books, writing more complex sentences, and solving basic math problems independently.

	<p>► When to look more closely</p> <p>You might want to speak to the teacher if your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Struggles to read simple sentences• Finds basic number work very difficult• Avoids writing or becomes very frustrated• Finds it hard to follow simple instructions• Struggles to maintain focus and sit for periods of time
<p>Suggestions if a child is falling behind or excelling</p>	<p>📖 Reading (building confidence + fluency)</p> <p>📖 1. “Little and often” reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read together for 10 minutes daily• Let your child track the words with their finger• Re-read favourite books to build fluency <p>🗣️ 2. Echo reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You read a sentence → child repeats it back with expression• Helps fluency and confidence <p>🔍 3. Spot the word</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pick a word from the book (e.g. <i>the, was</i>)• Ask them to find it on the page quickly <p>🗣️ 4. Story talk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask simple questions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ “What do you think will happen next?”◦ “How does the character feel?” <p>✍️ Writing (making it purposeful and fun)</p> <p>📝 1. Shopping lists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child writes the weekly shopping list• Encourage sounding out words (e.g. <i>bred</i> for bread is fine)

2. Notes and messages

- Leave notes for each other (e.g. "I love you", "Good morning")
- Child writes replies

3. Mini stories

- Draw a picture → write 1–3 sentences about it
- Focus: capital letter, full stop, finger spaces

4. Sentence dice

- Roll a dice:
 - 1 = who
 - 2 = what
 - 3 = where
- Build silly sentences together

Maths (real-life learning)

1. Cooking maths

- Measure ingredients together
- Count spoonfuls or weigh items
- Talk about "more" and "less"

2. Shop role-play

- Use coins at home
- "This toy costs 5p—how many coins do you need?"

3. Number bonds games

- "What makes 10?" using fingers, blocks, or objects
- Quick-fire questions: $7 + ? = 10$

4. Daily time practice

- Look at clocks together:
 - "What time do we eat dinner?"
 - "What time do you go to bed?"

5. Dice games

- Roll two dice and add the numbers
- Make it competitive: "Who gets the biggest total?"

Science (curiosity at home)

1. Nature walks

- Spot plants, insects, birds
- Talk about what they see

2. Sink or float

- Test household objects in water
- Predict first, then test

3. Weather watch

- Record daily weather in a simple chart
- Talk about changes over the week
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Learning skills (focus + independence)

1. "Beat the timer"

- Set 5–10 minutes for a task (reading, puzzle, writing)
- Helps build focus gently

2. Puzzles and games

- Jigsaws, memory games, matching cards
- Builds concentration and problem-solving

3. Simple routines

- Let child take responsibility:
 - Packing their bag
 - Setting the table
 - Tidying toys