



Tech4Learning®



Pixie®

HOME EDITION 2013

Guide for Parents:
Second Grade



What is Pixie?

Pixie is software your young child can use to write, paint pictures, and tell stories. Pixie makes learning fun and your child can use Pixie at home to continue exploring topics they are learning in school.

Your child can add text to a Pixie page to practice their writing, draw ideas from their imagination using the paint tools, record narration for stories, and more. Your child can share their work in Pixie as a printed page, comic book, or even a video.



Using Pixie with Your Second Grader

In Second Grade your child's abilities with language, writing, reading, and math are emerging and blossoming. They can increasingly explore and think about the world independently. Pixie provides an opportunity for you to support your child's exploration of the world around them and respond to what they find.

Pixie is also the perfect canvas for free play on the computer. Play is a powerful way for children to learn about the world. But rather than consuming computer games, Pixie encourages children to create – create artwork, stories, diagrams, designs, and more.

As you explore some of the ideas in this guide, listen to your child. Allow them to drive the activities and take them wherever their interests lead. Passion for learning is perhaps the most important thing you can teach your child at this age.



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Reading and Writing

Reading

Students begin to recognize structure and sounds in words they are reading.

Counting Syllables



In this activity, your child will type the number of syllables below the word. Use the line tool as shown in the first example to divide the word. Work with your child to think of a new word for the boxes at the bottom.

Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Language Arts folder> open Syllables I activity

Your child can also use Pixie to pick out words in their favorite story and make a list with common endings like working, playing, and cooking. Then illustrate those new words in context of the story they read.

Reading

Students begin to compare and interpret plot and character development.

Parts of a Story



In this activity your child will begin to tell apart the characters in the story, the plot (storyline), and the setting (surroundings).

Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Language Arts folder> open Parts of a Story activity

Your child can also practice understanding plot and character development in Pixie by using stickers illustrating the beginning, middle, and end of the next story they read.

Reading and Writing

Students read text in multiple subjects.

Vocabulary Trading Card



In this activity your child will gather unfamiliar words from a fiction or nonfiction book they are reading and create a trading card for each chosen word.

Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Language Arts folder> open Vocabulary Trading Card activity

Your child can also enhance their understanding of plant cycles by planting a seed and documenting their observations through illustrations and diagrams.

Reading and Writing (continued)

Writing

Students begin to think about their audience when writing about things they know and things that are important to them.

Write a Friendly Letter



In this activity your child will practice writing by writing a friendly letter. Have them write a letter to grandma or grandpa and have them talk about what they just learned in school or enjoyed on a recent vacation.

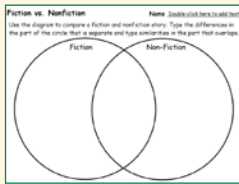
[Click the Project button](#) > [click New on the left](#) > [in the Activities area](#) > [open Language Arts folder](#) > [open Friendly Letter activity](#)

Your child can use Pixie to write letters to family members that include both text you help them write and pictures of things in the text.

Writing

Students learn to write, to communicate, and to show understanding.

Compare Fiction and Nonfiction



Practice deciding with your child if what you hear is fiction or non-fiction. Remind them fiction is entertaining, a make-believe story that is not real; non-fiction is true information that gives you facts to explain something.

In this activity your child can begin to learn the difference between fiction and nonfiction by comparing true facts over made up ones. Choose a story like the **Big Friendly Giant** by Roald Dahl (fiction) and **Great White Sharks** by Sandra Markle (nonfiction).

[Click the Project button](#) > [click New on the left](#) > [in the Activities area](#) > [open Language Arts folder](#) > [open Fiction vs. Non Fiction activity](#)

You can also talk about fiction and nonfiction in everyday life. Use a Venn diagram template in Pixie to note the features that determine its category.

Writing

Students write longer and with more detail.

Make a Story Web



In this activity your child will add text and drag stickers to help write their own creative story. Encourage them to add punctuation and speech bubbles to keep it interesting.

[Click the Project button](#) > [click New on the left](#) > [in the Activities area](#) > [open Language Arts folder](#) > [open Story Web activity](#)

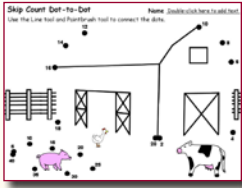
You can also use Pixie to practice fluency and writing skills by writing an "I used to". This activity also helps work on their spelling, poetic structure and word usage.

Mathematics

Numbers and Operations

Students explore number relationships to improve adding and subtracting.

Skip Count by Two's



Skip counting, or adding by multiples, is a great start for learning to multiply. Make counting by 2's, 5's, and 10's into a game you play at the dinner table or in the car. You child can also complete dot-to-dot activities in Pixie that work with skip counting.

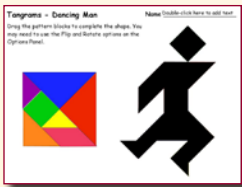
[Click Open button](#)> [click Activities on left](#)> [open Math folder](#)> [open Skip Count Dot-to-Dot activity](#)

Your child can add stickers to a Pixie page to represent skip counting. For example $2 \text{ apples} + 2 \text{ bananas} + 2 \text{ oranges} = 6$ pieces of fruit.

Geometry

Students learn to flip, rotate, and slide simple shapes.

Tangrams



Becoming familiar with shapes and spatial relationships in their environment will help children grasp the principles of geometry in later grades. In this activity your child will drag, flip, and rotate the pattern blocks to complete the man.

[Click the Project button](#)> [click New on the left](#)> [in the Activities area](#)> [open Math folder](#)> [open Tangrams-Dancing Man activity](#)

Go on a shape hunt with your child to find circles, squares, triangles and rectangles at home. Do the same with three-dimensional objects like cubes, cones, spheres, and cylinders. Your child can use Pixie to collect stickers of these objects or paint a picture of the shapes you find.

Measurement

Students take measurements and estimate.

Telling Time by The Hour



In this activity your child will click and drag to match the time and the clock.

[Click the Project button](#)> [click New on the left](#)> [in the Activities area](#)> [open Math folder](#)> [open Tell Time activity](#)

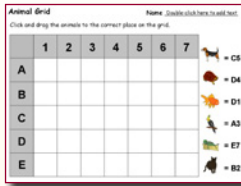
Your child can use Pixie to paint a picture about an event that happens at a certain time each day, such as going to sleep at <8pm> . Add a clock with a specific time from the Stickers tab (Objects> clocks) and have your child draw a picture to show what happens at that time of day.

Mathematics (continued)

Data Analysis and Probability

Students read and create graphs and tables.

Read a Grid



In this activity your child will learn how to read a grid. Click and drag the animals to the correct place on the grid.

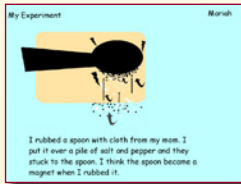
Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Math folder> open Animal Grid Activity folder

You can also use Pixie to explore 'using a grid' by using something that interests your child like different types of sailboats, or different colors of lollipops. Have them record their observations using the grid activity.

Inquiry Skills

Students conduct investigations about the world around them.

Create your own investigation



Work with your child to conduct an experiment about static electricity. Use salt, pepper, a plastic spoon and cloth. Rub the plastic spoon on a piece of the cloth and then hold it about an inch above a pile of salt and pepper. What does your child see?

Have your child use Pixie to draw a picture of what they see.

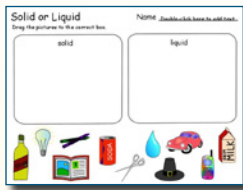
Take a walk outside with your child. Bring along a magnifying glass and use the lens to examine things. Talk to your child about what they observe and use Pixie to record their observations.

Science

Physical Science

Students identify the properties of objects and materials.

Measuring States of Matter



Work with your child at home to find objects that are solids, liquids, and gases. Work in Pixie with your child to click and drag stickers to the correct state of matter.

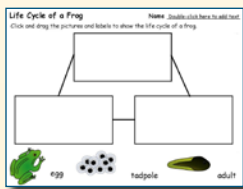
[Click the Project button](#) > [click New on the left](#) > [in the Activities area](#) > [open Science folder](#) > [open States of Matter Activity](#)

Conduct an experiment with your child using water to show the three states of matter, liquid/solid/gas: melt ice (a solid) to get water (a liquid), and then boil it to get steam (a gas). Have your child record their observations, using both text and painting, in Pixie.

Life Science

Students study the life cycles and adaptations of living things.

Life Cycle of a Frog



Second graders begin to understand the needs of plants, life cycles of plants and animals. Click and drag the pictures to show the life cycle of a frog.

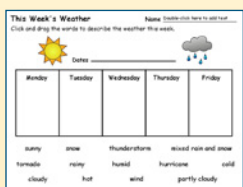
[Click the Project button](#) > [click New on the left](#) > [in the Activities area](#) > [open Science folder](#) > [open Life Cycle of a Frog](#)

Your child can also use Pixie to show the life cycle of a plant, insect, or animal. Use stickers and the paint tools to add labels to each stage of life.

Earth and Space Science

Students learn to identify changes in the earth and sky.

This Week's Weather



As children learn about daily weather patterns, they learn how it changes day to day. Have your child record observations at the same time each day for one week. Click and drag the words into each day of the week to describe the weather.

[Click the Project button](#) > [click New on the left](#) > [in the Activities area](#) > [open Science folder](#) > [open Weekly Weather I Activity](#)

It is likely your child is learning to record a weekly weather chart at school. Your child can also use Pixie to record the daily temperature on your home thermometer and describe the temperature using stickers and paint tools.

Science (continued)

Science and Technology

Students learn how technology tools help them accomplish something.

With a Computer



What does your family do with a computer? Do you have one at home? Work? Work with your child to identify things your family does with the computer. Use Pixie to develop a list of things that you can do with a computer.

Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Science folder> open With a Computer activity

Your child can also use Pixie to discover more things they can do on a computer, like design an invitation, write a letter to a family member, or create a work of art.

Science in Personal and Social Perspectives

Students understand how people interact with the environment.

What Can You Recycle?



Second graders begin to get a better idea of what items can be recycled. Work with your child to identify inside and outside items that can be recycled. Drag items you can recycle into the bin.

Click Open button> click Activities on left> open Science folder> open You Can Recycle activity

Your child can be responsible for deciding which items from dinner preparation and cleanup can be put in the recycle bin. Have him draw pictures of what he recycled into the recycling bin. Print and hang it above the recycling bin as a reminder for everyone.

Social Studies

Citizenship

Students study citizenship in a democratic republic.

Match up Careers



This is the time your child will start to think about the general public and how they influence society. In this activity, your child will use the Paintbrush to connect the objects with the correct career.

Click the Project button > click New on the left > in the Activities area > open Social Studies folder > open Career Tools

Talk to your child about the importance of community helpers by having them describe how each community helper makes our neighborhoods safe. Have your child use Pixie to create a “trading card” for a community helper. Include text descriptions and pictures.

Culture

Students will learn about different cultures and their traditions.

Pack Your Holiday Suitcase



Different families and cultural groups celebrate different holidays. Before you celebrate a holiday, work with your child to fill a suitcase of things related to that holiday. There is a Holidays folder in the Stickers library as well as a Judaism folder in Symbols and Icons.

Click the Project button > click New on the left > in the Activities area > open Social Studies folder > open Holiday Suitcase activity

Your child can use Pixie to create decorations for a holiday your family celebrates.

Time, Continuity, and Change

Students study how people view themselves in and over time.

School Then and Now



Ask your child about their school and classroom. Then share with them what it was like when you went to school. Work together to compare your experiences.

Click the Project button > click New on the left > in the Activities area > open Social Studies folder > open School Then and Now activity

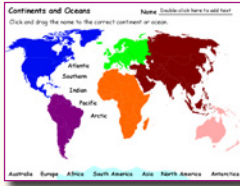
You can also have your child use Pixie to add text and draw pictures of things do today vs. what they think kids did 100 years ago. What are the differences? What are the similarities?

Social Studies (continued)

Space and Place

Students study their world and where they fit geographically.

Continents and Oceans



Your child is now old enough to begin identifying places on a map. Talk to your child about where you live. What continent do you live on? Which ocean is nearest to you? Work with your child to label all of the world's oceans and continents.

Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Social Studies folder> open Continents and Oceans activity

Your child can use Pixie to decorate a map of the world with objects they find in the stickers library. Where do pandas live? What about giraffes? Where do Lego toys come from? Where are bananas grown?

Individual Development and Identity

Students learn that behavior is different in different places.

Classroom Rules



Talk to your child about the rules in your family. Work with your child to remember and identify the rules they have in the classroom at school.

Click Open button> click Activities on left> open Templates> open Classroom Rules activity

Your child can use Pixie to write and illustrate a rule you have in your family. Post it in an area of your home to remind all family members.

Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

Students learn about the roles of people who work in the community.

Community Helpers



After going on an errand like the post office or the doctor's, talk to your child about how your family relies on community helpers.

Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Social Studies folder> open Helpers activity

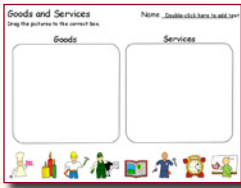
Your child can also use Pixie to draw a picture of the community helper they most admire or what to be when they grow up.

Social Studies (continued)

Production, Distribution, and Consumption

Students learn how different people provide the goods and services they use every day.

Goods and Services



Have a conversation with your child and remind them goods are things you can buy and touch. For example: Can you buy apples? Can you touch apples? Then, apples are goods.

Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Social Studies> open Goods and Services activity

Your child can use Pixie to draw a picture of a person who they see in your neighborhood and the good or service they provide there.

Science, Technology, and Society

Students learn about the relationships among science, technology, and society.

Save the Earth



Talk to your child about ways to conserve resources and energy. Have your child list five things they can do to help conserve energy and resources.

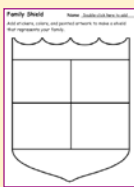
Click Open button> click Activities on left> open Month-by-Month> open Ideas for the Earth activity

Talk with your child talk about the 3 R's (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle). Have your child can use Pixie to create a poster to illustrate one of the items on their list of ways to save the Earth.

Cultural Connections

Students learn about traditions and customs in different families and communities.

Make a Family Shield



In this activity create a shield for a culture that interests your child. Add stickers and use the text and paint tools to illustrate that particular cultures' clothing, musical instruments, and food associated with that group

Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Social Studies> open Family Shield activity

With your child, you can talk about different languages across the world. Have your child pick 4 countries and use stickers and text box to illustrate that culture and language.