

Relations: $<$, $>$, $=$ **Family Note**

In *Second Grade Everyday Mathematics*, children “do mathematics.” We expect that children will want to share their enthusiasm for the mathematics activities they do in school with their families. Your child will bring home assignments and activities to do as homework throughout the year. These assignments, called “Home Links,” will be identified by the house at the top right corner of this page. The assignments will not take very much time to complete, but most of them involve interaction with an adult or an older child.

There are many reasons for including Home Links in the second grade program:

- ◆ The assignments encourage children to take initiative and responsibility for completing them. As you respond with encouragement and assistance, you help your child build independence and self-confidence.
- ◆ Home Links reinforce newly learned skills and concepts. They provide opportunities for children to think and practice at their own pace.
- ◆ These assignments are often designed to relate what is done in school to children’s lives outside school. This helps tie mathematics to the real world, which is very important in the *Everyday Mathematics* program.
- ◆ The Home Links assignments will help you get a better idea of the mathematics your child is learning in school.

Generally, you can help by listening and responding to your child’s requests and comments about mathematics. You also can help by linking numbers to real life, pointing out ways in which you use numbers (time, TV channels, page numbers, telephone numbers, bus routes, shopping lists, and so on). Extending the notion that “children who are read to, read,” *Everyday Mathematics* supports the belief that children who have someone do math with them will learn mathematics. Playful counting and thinking games that are fun for both you and your child are very helpful for such learning.

Please return the **second page** of this Home Link to school tomorrow.