

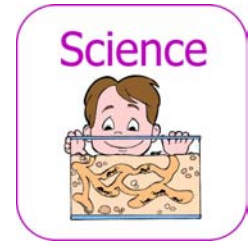


Sensational



Centers

in



Small Spaces



Presented by

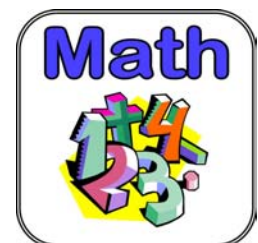
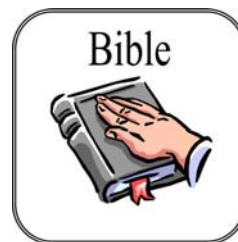
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Why should you use centers?

Implementing centers:









-  Promotes independence
-  Strengthens skills/concepts learned in class
-  Helps students develop time management skills
-  Teaches children to become independent problem solvers
-  Encourages responsibility and builds confidence
-  Promotes learning through self-discovery
-  Provides opportunities to differentiate instruction
-  Accelerates learning by meeting various learning styles
-  Provides opportunities for students to explore, discover, create, practice and apply skills, use critical thinking skills, and collaborate with other students
-  Provides teachers with time to pull students one-on-one or in small groups to target specific academic skills, modify and enrich curriculum, and better meet the needs of individual students

Centers to Include in Your Classroom



<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Reading Center  Read the Room  Write the Room  Big Book Center  Story Telling Center  Overhead Projector Center  Computer Center  Science Center  Social Studies Center  Math Center  Pocket Chart  Writing Center  Dictionary Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Drama Center  Sight Words Center  Spelling Center  ABC Center  Build a Sentence Center  Stamp a Sentence Center  Build a Word Center  Lace a Word Center  Phonics Phones  Poetry Center  Handwriting Center  Listening Center  Author Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Art Center  Picture Stamps Center  Treasure Box  Weekly Reader  Bible Center  Calendar Center  Rhyme Time  Magnetic Center  Buddy Reading Center  Publishing Center  Research Center  In the News Center  Wonderful Words Center
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Centers in Small Spaces

Exciting hands-on activities can be stored in all kinds of containers. Try using some of these to save space:

-  Gift bags
-  Go Snacks containers
-  Film canisters
-  Baby food jars
-  Cookie tins (great for magnetic letters, words, or numbers)
-  Baby Wipe boxes
-  Plastic shoe boxes
-  Sweater sized plastic boxes

Setting Up Engaging Centers

-  **Listening Center:** Students choose a book on tape, listen on \$5 walkmans, and fill out a listening report. Consider having your students create tapes for the center!
-  **Overhead Projector Center:** Place the overhead on the floor. Students can build words, fill in missing words from stories or poems, add or highlight letters, blends, digraphs, words or punctuation.

- 🍎 Picture Stamps: Students create rebus sentences, stories, or mini-books. Students may also create flip-flap books for rhyming words.
- 🍎 Build a Word or Build a Sentence: Students use letter or word tiles to build sentences or words. Students may illustrate words to create a mini-word dictionary or illustrate sentences.
- 🍎 Stamp a Sentence: Students stamp sentences on adding machine tape, create mini-books, or illustrate their sentences. Students may also identify nouns, verbs, and adverbs by stamping them on a recording sheet.
- 🍎 Treasure Box: Students examine 4 or 5 items that have been placed inside the box. Students write the words and then use them in sentences.
- 🍎 ABC/Letter Sort Center: Students listen to phonics stories on tape, sort letters by attributes, put letters in ABC order. Older students can use this center to put words in ABC order.
- 🍎 Story Telling/Puppet Center: Students re-tell a familiar story using a puppet or props. Students may create the puppets or create their own story.
- 🍎 Drama Center: Students choose a skit to read and perform with a partner. Readers Theater scripts work great for this!
- 🍎 Lace a Word: Students create words by stringing them on pipe cleaners or lanyard string.
- 🍎 Bible Center: Students read story and student Bibles and fill out a reading report form. Students may also unscramble, illustrate or play memory with the weekly memory verse.
- 🍎 Weekly Reader/Scholastic Book Order Center: Laminate the magazines. Have students hunt for specific items in the order or fill out a report form.
- 🍎 Phonics Phones: Students use a phonics phone to practice reading orally to build fluency and expression.
- 🍎 Spelling Center: Students practice spelling words using letter tiles, stamps, beans, magnetic letters, gel bags, magnetic letters, wikki stiks, etc.

Monitoring Student Progress

Center cards: With this system, students must wear a center necklace to go to centers. The necklace is a large plastic clothespin threaded with lanyard lace. The student attaches his or her card to the clothes pin and then goes to centers. The center cards have the same icons that are on the center. Students color in the pictures of the centers they complete. This works really well with young students as the necklace helps the students keep track of their center card.

Center Folders: Each child has a two pocket folder with brads in the center to keep their center work. At the beginning of each week, children would put their center sheet in the brads of their folder. The center sheet is a page containing pictures of the centers. As the student completes the center, he or she colors in the picture of the center he or she worked in. Folders are carried to each center and any work that is completed in a center is placed in the center folder. Folders are filed in a milk crate during the week. At the end of the week, students empty their folders, paper clip their papers together, and turn them in to be graded.

Managing and Organizing Centers

Time Frame: 45-60 minutes is optimal

Activities: Students participate in 3 rotations during this time frame. Use a timer to help stay on track!

Activity 1: Meet with the Teacher

Students are grouped based on reading abilities or specific teaching needs for various reading skills. The groups are flexible so that they can be adjusted according to individual student needs. Group time is focused on:

- Small group reading instruction
- Reviewing phonetic sounds and spellings
- Reviewing sight words
- Pre-teaching concepts to struggling students
- Challenging high achievers by extending reading and writing activities

Activity 2: Tablework or Independent Work

Students work at their seat on a variety of independent tasks, such as:

- Workbook pages or worksheets
- Journal Writing
- Reviewing sight words or spelling words alone or with a partner
- Poetry Journal
- Assigned reading or writing projects
- Seasonal projects

Early finishers can choose one of the following activities if they finish before it is time to rotate:

- Writers' Workshop Folder
- Journal Writing
- Poetry Journal
- Read a book
- Puzzle
- Read or Write the Room
- Language Arts file folder game

Activity 3: Centers

Students work independently or with a partner to complete centers. Some centers such as reading, writing, and math may be set up in specific areas of the room. Other centers can be kept in clear plastic tubs on a shelf. The tubs are great for small or cramped classrooms because you can create a wide variety of activities and store them in a small amount of space.

Control noise level by setting a student limit, such as “Only two students are allowed at a center at a time.” Also, because there are three different activities occurring at the same time, only one third of the class is working in centers at one time.

Students may complete more than one center if time permits.

Trouble-shooting

- 🍎 Model, model, model!
- 🍎 Review center time rules before beginning. Ask students to tell you what center time looks and sounds like. Ask how we will treat materials.
- 🍎 Post “I can...” and “I will...” lists in each center
- 🍎 Use the “Ask 3 before Me” rule.
- 🍎 Question Cards
- 🍎 Designate student experts, such as a computer expert, an audio expert, a reading expert, or a materials expert. Have students wear a badge or create your own class yellow pages.
- 🍎 Choose a signal to use when changing groups.

Excellent Resources for Centers

Literacy Work Stations: Making Centers Work by Debbie Diller

Developing Literacy Using Reading Manipulatives K-2 Creative Teaching Press

Instant Math Centers Creative Teaching Press

Simple Centers for First Grade by Lisa Molengraft Instructional Fair

Literacy Centers: Take It To Your Seat by Jo Ellen Moore and Jo Larsen (Evan Moor)

Working With Words: 14 Instant Literacy Centers by Sue Lewis and Amy Stern (Creative Teaching Press)

Hands-On Math Creative Teaching Press

Helpful Websites

- 🍌 Mrs. McDowell’s Classroom: Find pictures and downloadable worksheets!
<http://www.mrsmcdowell.com>
- 🍌 KinderKorner: Find tons of ideas for all subject areas and great ideas for centers.
<http://www.kinderkorner.com> Join the kinderkorner listserv!
- 🍌 Carl’s Corner: Great tips for implementing centers! Check out her resources for sight words. <http://teachers.santee.k12.ca.us/carl/>
- 🍌 The School Bell: Check out her number families program and sight word kit!
<http://www.theschoolbell.com>
- 🍌 The Stapleless Book: Create itty bitty books for your reading and writing centers!
Free at: <http://www.readwritethink.org/materials/stapleless/index.htm>