



Learning with Literacy Centers

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Literacy centers are independent activities that allow children to practice reading, writing, and spelling skills in a purposeful way. When used effectively, students have time to apply what they are learning and teachers have time to work with small groups!

Literacy Centers target 3 main areas of language arts instruction:

Spelling and Word Work	
Lace a Word	Students create words by stringing them on pipe cleaners or lanyard string.
Sight Words	Students write and stamp sight words. Play memory, bingo, and card games with a partner.
Compound Words	Students build and illustrate compound words.
Build a Word	Students build words using letter tiles.
Letter Sort	Students listen to phonics stories on tape, sort letters by attributes, put letters in ABC order. Older students can put words in ABC order.
Spelling Station	Students practice spelling words using letter tiles, stamps, beans, magnetic letters, gel bags, Wikki Stiks, etc.
Clap a Word	Students wear gloves and clap words to practice counting syllables.
Overhead Projector	Students can build words, fill in missing words from stories or poems, add or highlight letters, blends, digraphs, words, or punctuation
Reading and Responding	
Phonics Phones	Students use a phonics phone to practice oral reading to build fluency and expression.
Weekly Reader	Students read a Weekly Reader magazine and write about what they learned.
Story Telling Station	Students re-tell a familiar story using puppets or props. Students may also create a new story.
Drama Center	Students choose a skit to read and perform for with a partner.
Bible Center	Students read a story Bible and write about what they learned.
Book Club	Students respond to literature by choosing an activity from the Book Review Menu.
Book of the Week	Students submit a proposal for their recommendation for the book of the week.
Read the Room	Students read words, poetry, and text in the classroom with a pointer or silly glasses.
Poetry Center	Students re-read familiar poetry. Other activities include substituting words and illustrating.
Listening Center	Students listen to a book on tape and fill out a listening report.
Buddy Reading	Students read with a buddy. Echo reading, Page by Page, Choral reading
Writing and Grammar	
Sentence Stamping	Students stamp sentences on adding machine tape, create mini-books, or illustrate sentences. Students may also identify nouns, verbs, and adverbs by stamping them on a sorting sheet.
Build a Sentence	Students unscramble and build sentences using word tiles.
Stamp a Story	Students use picture stamps to create rebus sentences, stories, or mini-books. Students may also create a rhyming flip-flap book.
Sticker Story	Students choose stickers and use them to create a story.
Letter Center	Students write letters to friends, characters in books, the classroom pet etc.
Treasure Box	Students examine 4 or 5 items in the box. Write the words and use them in sentences.
Punctuation Station	Students practice adding punctuation to sentences.
Write the Room	Students look for words around the room and create a list.



Resources

Websites:

- 🍏 Looking for more information on today's workshop! Visit my website to see pictures and download activities. You will also find links for purchasing center resource books! <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>

Books:

Literacy Work Stations: Making Centers Work by Debbie Diller
Primary Literacy Centers by Susan Nations and Mellissa Alonso
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

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Visit www.kinderkorner.com to join kinderkorner listserv.

Visit www.teachingheart.net to join another great listserv!