



Learning With Literacy Centers

Promoting reading and writing in the early childhood classroom!

Presented by:










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Ways to Promote Language and Literacy in the Early Childhood Classroom

-  Provide opportunities for children to expand their oral language
-  Read several stories daily.
-  Teach songs and rhymes.
-  Support reading and writing through exploratory play.
-  Point out words when reading to children.
-  Encourage children to experiment with writing everyday.
-  Provide a literacy rich environment. *Go beyond labeling!*
-  Create inviting and special areas for reading and writing.
-  Be a literacy advocate. *Model reading and writing everyday.*

Incorporate Print into Every Part of the Day

-  Sign Sheet or book: Invite students to sign in every day.
-  Student Directory: Create a class directory using students' names and photos.
-  Yellow Pages: Create a class book of experts for tying shoes, helping with the computer, etc.
-  Word Wall and Environmental Print Wall

Examine Your Current Centers

Since natural curiosity leads children to form ideas about print and its use in their lives, incorporate reading and writing opportunities in every area of the classroom. Encourage reading and writing play in your developmental centers.

Block Center: Include books on building. Provide blueprints for building. Encourage children to record their constructions in a class blueprint book.

Dramatic Play: Set up prop boxes to coordinate with your themes. Include songs, environmental print, and books to encourage play with purpose.

Example: Pizza Parlor: pizza boxes, aprons, notepads for waiters, menus from local pizza restaurant, pizza coupons

Sensory Table: Bury tactile letters in sand, cold spaghetti, Easter grass etc.

Alphabet soup: Have students scoop out a bowl full of letters and practice identifying or matching.

Name soup: Have students scoop out letters to spell classmates' names.

Easel: Place art books nearby or laminated copies of famous artwork. Feature an illustrator of the month and post pictures near the easel for students to use as a model.

Puppet Center: Allow students to make puppets that coordinate with literature read aloud. Provide socks or paper bags yarn, googly eyes, sequins, etc.

Science Center: Add nonfiction books. Consider adding lab books or sheets for students to use when "recording" observations.

Social Studies: Provide travel brochures, atlases, maps, and globes. Set up prop boxes for different countries with souvenirs, postcards, and clothing. Encourage students to create their own travel brochures or create a list of things to bring on their trip.

Math Center: Add books! Counting books and shape books. Encourage students to take surveys!

Literacy Centers for the Early Educator

Use literacy centers to promote pre-reading and pre-writing skills. Engage the early child in literacy experiences through hands-on self-discovery and developmental play. Help young children see themselves as readers and writers.

Literacy Centers in the early childhood classroom:



Inspire children to explore reading and writing.



Invite children to gradually understand print concepts.



Encourage social interaction and oral language development.



Demonstrate the purpose and power of print.



Provide practice with real life experiences that require reading and writing.

Pre-Reading	Pre-Writing	Speaking and Listening	Letters and Sounds	Fine Motor
Reading Corner	Writing Center	Felt Board	ABC Center	Sewing
Pocket Chart	Write the Room	Story Telling	Treasure Box	Playdough
Poetry	Post Office	Dramatic Play	Names	Lite bright
Big Book Center	Picture Stamps	Prop Boxes	Letter Sort	Sand/Water Table
Read the Room	Write the Room	Listening	Clap a Word	Art
Alphabet Book Box	Sticker Stories	Puppets	ABC Arcs	Easel Painting
Song Center	Itty Bitty Books	Survey	Letter Boxes	Perforation Art
	Special Word Boxes	Telephone	Letter Stamps	Scribble Art

Encourage Writing Everywhere!

Make sure you have a wide variety of materials and opportunities to encourage play with writing.

Things to Write on: stationary, adding machine tape, construction paper, notepads, textured paper, order forms, telephone messages, checklists, attendance slips, calendars, receipts, appointment books, checkbooks, coupons, junk mail, greeting cards, invitations, order forms, laminating scraps, post it notes, memo boards, murals, sentence strips, chalkboards, dry erase boards, clipboards, magna doodles, tin foil

Things to Write With: crayons (thin, fat, homemade), markers (thin, fat, smelly, Crayola Windows FX), pens, pencils, old typewriter or computer board, letter markers or stamps, Wikki Stix, Q-tips, bingo dobbers, paint brushes, letter sponges, chalk, colored pencils, plastic squeeze bottles

Things to Write In: sand, shaving cream, pudding, gel, liquid soap with food coloring, tempera surprise: add salt, glitter, sand, soap flakes etc. for new experiences), toothpaste, fingerpaint,

Encourage Reading Everywhere!

Fill your classroom library with books from a wide variety of genre: concept books, number books, picture books, wordless books, poetry, nursery rhymes, fingerplays, alphabet books, predictable books, nonfiction books, magazines, big books

Art Ideas for Letter Recognition:

- A glue on apple prints, glue on apple cut outs, arrows
- B glue on buttons or balloons
- C glue on cotton balls, color with crayons
- D glue dots, hole punch dots, dirt, diamond shapes
- E glue on egg shells, elastics
- F glue on feathers, felt, fabric
- G glue on green glitter or grass
- H glue on hearts, hay, or paint with honey
- I paint with colored ice cubes, use ink to make insects
- J use sequins as jewels, or make a jewelry necklace
- K glue on popcorn kernels, king crowns, Kisses, keys, special K cereal
- L glue on leaves, or punch holes around the edges for lacing, use yellow paper to make lemons, make lollipops
- M glue on macaroni or magazine pictures
- N glue on noodles, napkins and newspapers
- O glue on oatmeal, oranges (paper), octopus
- P popcorn, potato prints
- Q glue on Q tips or make quarter rubbings
- R glue on ribbons or raisins
- S use stars or stickers glue on seeds or string
- T glue on toothpicks, tissues or tissue paper squares, triangles, tape
- U cut U shapes, make umbrellas
- V violet, glue on velvet or velcro
- W glue on wall paper pieces, wood or waxed paper
- X glue X's using colored paper, make an X ray
- Y glue on yellow yarn, make paper yachts
- Z glue on small zippers, zeros, zebras

Prop Box Ideas

Airport	Fire station	Sewing	School	Space/Moon	Jewelry Store
Nursery	Grocery store	Wedding	Chinese Restaurant	Dentist	Post Office
Pet shop	Birthday Party	Ice Cream Shop	Mexican Restaurant	Shoe Store	Veterinarian
Fishing	Florist/Gardner	Hair Salon	Olympics	Election	Picnic

Quiet Songs:

Eyes are watching, ears are listening, Body quiet, you should really try it Listening well, listening well.	1,2, 3 eyes on me 4, 5, 6, put your finger on your lips, I am looking to see if my friends are ready, It is time to settle down.	Are you ready? Are you ready? I hope, I hope, You are ready to start!
Chant: Put your hands together clap And put them in your lap!	Chant: If you're a smartie, clap once, If you're a smartie clap twice!	(If You're Happy and You Know it) If you ready to go to lunch, Clap your hands (repeat) I am looking to see If my friends are ready, If you're ready to go to lunch Clap your hands. Stomp your feet. Nod your head.

Resources for the Early Educator:

Story Telling Resources:

Story Props from Little Giraffes: <http://www.littlegiraffes.com/storyprops.html> Great list of links to printable props that coordinate with specific stories.

Kiz Club: <http://kizclub.com/storypatterns.html> Free printable props and games that coordinate with literature.

DLTK: <http://www.dltk-teach.com/rhymes/index.htm> Wonderful resource for activities and crafts that coordinate with Nursery Rhymes, Shapes, Colors, and much more!

Childcare and Beyond: <http://childcareandbeyond.tripod.com> Great resource for setting up prop boxes, lots of printable masks, ideas for sensory tables and more!

Preschool Printables: <http://www.preschoolprintables.com/felt/felt.shtml> Lots of printable activities for the preschool classroom.

Danielle's Place: <http://daniellesplace.com/> Excellent activities for Bible crafts and stories.

Daycare Resource Connection: <http://www.daycareresource.com/preschoolprintables.html> Wide variety of printables for the classroom. Some require membership.

Childcare Land: <http://www.childcareland.com/> Adorable flannel board activities. Lots of printables! Be sure to check out the freebies!

Literacy Center Resources:

Mrs. McDowell's Classroom: www.mrsmcdowell.com Visit my classroom on the web for more ideas! Great for K-2 teachers!

Mrs. Polymer's Centers: <http://www.mrspohlmeyerskinderpage.com/stations.htm> Great pictures and ideas for literacy centers.

Hubbard's Cupboard: http://www.hubbardscupboard.org/abc_centers.html Great center ideas and super resource for Bible activities for the early childhood classroom!

KinderKorner: <http://www.kinderkorner.com/centers.html> Tons of ideas for literacy centers!

Mrs. Levin's Pre-K Pages: <http://www.pre-kpages.com/literacycntrs.html> Photos of literacy centers.

Mrs. Cox's Pre-Kinders: <http://www.prekinders.com/letters.htm> Photos and descriptions of literacy centers. Great ideas for anecdotal records and portfolios in the early childhood classroom.

The K Crew: <http://www.thekcrew.net/> Teacher created materials available for purchase!

Printable Center Icons:

Teach-nology: <http://www.teach-nology.com/worksheets/misc/centers/> Free!

ABC Teach: www.abcteach.com Free What are we doing signs?

Mrs. Meacham: <http://www.jmeacham.com/> Free printable labels.

Teacher Resource Books:

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 Molengraff 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