

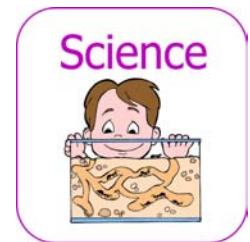


Sensational



Centers

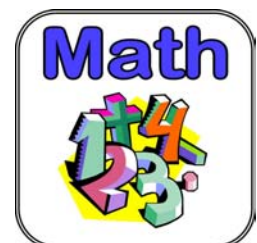
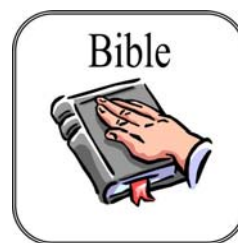
in



Small Spaces













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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 |
|--|---|---|










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: Consider using \$5 walkmans. Consider having families create tapes for the center!
-  Overhead Projector Center: All students to make shadow puppets. Great place to experiment with perforation art!
-  Picture Stamps: Students create rebus sentences, stories, or mini-books. Great teacher center for Pre-K!
-  Students may also create flip-flap books for rhyming words.
-  Build a Word: K students use letter or word tiles to spell words or simple sentences.

-  Letter Stamps: Students stamp the alphabet on adding machine tape, create mini-books, match letters. K students may spell words.
-  Treasure Box: Students examine 4 or 5 items that have been placed inside the box. Students write or say the letters or match rhyming words or opposites.
-  ABC/Letter Sort Center: Sort letters by attributes, put letters 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.
-  Lace a Word: K students create words by stringing them on pipe cleaners or lanyard string. Pre-K students could lace sections of the alphabet.
-  Bible Center: Students browse picture Bibles and biblical board books. K students could draw and write or dictate about their favorite story.
-  Weekly Reader/Scholastic Book Order Center: Laminate the magazines.
-  Phonics Phones: Students use a phonics phone to practice "reading" or for singing familiar songs.
-  Spelling Center: K 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.

Management Board: Assign where students will go daily. Teacher posts student names and pictures by center icons.

Managing and Organizing Centers

Questions to ask yourself:

-  How many students do you have?
-  What ages are the children you teach? Pre-K or Kindergarten?
-  Do you have a full day or half-day program?
-  Do you have a full time assistant? Would a parent volunteer be helpful?
-  What are your learning objectives?
-  What are your teacher expectations and ultimate goals for center time?
-  What noise level is comfortable to you?
-  Will you allow students to have free choice or do you need a management board?

Time Frame: Time depends on age of students and length of school day. 45-60 minutes is optimal for K-5-2nd.

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 instruction
- Reviewing letters, sounds, or pre-reading/writing activities
- Pre-teaching concepts to struggling students
- Challenging high achievers
- Journaling or story writing: Small group allows students to dictate to the teacher

Activity 2: Tablework or Independent Work

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

- Seasonal projects
- Cutting and pasting activities
- File folder games
- Matching Activities

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. Take photos for your posters!
- 🍎 Use the "Ask 3 before Me" rule with older students.
- 🍎 Question Cards
- 🍎 If appropriate, 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.

Resources for the Early Educator:

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

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!

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>

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.