

Providing Resources—The Writing Centre

Children need to experiment with letters, words and print by practicing writing skills and playing with tools. They require time, space, supplies, and materials to ease the task of writing and make it enticing. Begin by creating a teaching area where models and lessons are provided. Designate a space for instructional materials such as a chalkboard, chart stand, wipe board, and a range of writing supplies. Having access to a variety of writing supplies and related art materials allows youngsters to uncover resources that may motivate them to write. Establishing a writing centre in the classroom plays a vital part in opening up spaces and opportunities for children to write.

Having an area for children to write or conference with others turns the classroom into a space where children may step into the role of authors and practice writing. Rich samples and a wealth of materials give students the incentive to write. As children play with the tools at their fingertips, they may become inspired to produce works of their own.

Materials for a Writing Centre

- pencils
- crayons
- markers (felt, dry erase)
- pens
- water cans
- paper strips
- glue
- tape
- scissors
- erasers
- white tape or blank sticker labels (to cover up errors)
- chart paper
- chart stand
- easel
- white board, magnetic board, chalk board (large and small for student use e.g., magic slate)
- chalk (white, colored)
- paper in various colors, size, and type (e.g., draft, construction, computer)
- cardstock, poster board
- stationary
- blank greeting cards
- notepads
- list pads
- index cards
- paint
- a variety of paint brushes of different sizes
- cover pages
- envelopes
- ready-made booklets
- stapler, staples, and staple remover
- date stamp
- paper clips
- folders
- letters (magnetic, felt, sticker, tile, block)
- alphabet books
- children's literature
- a variety of texts (e.g., manuals, non-fiction)
- dictionary
- thesaurus
- word wall and lists of high-frequency words
- theme word lists
- environmental print
- visual aids (lists, diagrams, charts, webs, drawings)
- writing samples, models, and displays