

Year-long Literacy Center Ideas for K-2

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Literacy Center Ideas

A few tips!

1. Start with your goals. What do you want your students to practice, and why? Choose an activity that will meet your goal.
2. Remember to model each activity on several different occasions *before* asking students to do center activities on their own or in pairs.
3. Differentiate whenever possible by providing different reading materials and/or tiered activities.

Big Book Center

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Students can ...

- Point to words as they read familiar Big Books.
- Talk together about their favorite parts.
- Practice reading Big Books while changing their voices for different characters.
- Write simple book reviews of Big Books.
- Write personal connections on sticky notes as they read.
- Find high frequency words and mark them with highlighter tape.
- Match words on sticky notes to words in a Big Book.

Pocket Chart Center

Students can ...

- Match student names with their pictures.
- Match synonyms or antonyms.
- Sort letters by feature.
- Sort letters that have different fonts.
- Sort rhyming words.
- Put words in alphabetical order.
- Sequence a set of directions.
- Sequence the events of a familiar story.

Fluency Center

Students can...

- Take turns reading sight words written on cards. Students can time each other with a goal to read more quickly.
- Take turns reading word family lists. Each child reads for the duration of a two-minute timer while the buddy follows along.
- Sequence sentence strips with the lines of a familiar nursery rhyme. They can place the strips on the floor a step apart and then step from phrase to phrase, reading with rhythm and expression.
- Read lines from familiar stories using different emotions.

ABC/Word WORK Station

Students can...

- Sort letters by features.
- Play an alphabet matching game.
- Sort pictures by beginning sound.
- Make new words by changing the onset or rime.
- Practice writing letters on an easel or make words with Wikki Stix or play dough.
- Do alphabet puzzles.
- Read alphabet charts.
- Sort words.
- Do word hunts
- Make words with magnetic letters, letter tiles, or letter cards.

Poetry Center

Students can ...

- Read a small version of an enlarged poem that the class has read during shared reading.
- Take turns reading the lines of a poem.
- Build a poem using parts written on pocket chart strips.
- Listen to poems on audio and follow along.
- Find special kinds of words in a poem (such as word wall words or rhyming words) and mark with highlighter tape.

Drama Station

Students can...

- Retell familiar books.
- Use puppets to retell a story.
- Use props (such as laminated pictures on craft sticks) to retell a familiar book.
- Read a reader's theater script for a familiar book.
- Create an audio recording of their performance.

Comprehension Center

Students can ...

- Make a text to self, text to world, or text to self connection and write about it using a sentence starter.
- Create a retelling flap book with one flap for characters, one for setting, and one for the main event.
- Respond to a book using one of the retelling options on a pocket cube.
- Retell a story using one of the prompts at the center.

Buddy Reading

Students can...

- Read a nonfiction text together. Highlight unfamiliar words with highlighting tape and record possible meanings.
- Read a fiction book together and retell using conversation cards.
- Read a story and write the key events on a "beginning, middle, end" graphic organizer.