Literacy Work Stations

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Adriana Borrelli
2007
Web References
www.k-3learningpages.net

1. Professional Development - Literacy Work Stations
2. List Serve Web Resources – Literacy Centers/Stations
Questions welcomed

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“A literacy work station is an area within the classroom where students work alone or interact with one another, using instructional materials to explore and expand their literacy. It is a place where a variety of activities reinforce and/or extend learning, often without the assistance of the classroom teacher.”
For any teacher…

- Experienced
- Novice
- Varied teaching styles
- A way to reorganize materials you already have for maximum learning
- A way to facilitate and reach individuals and small groups (Running Records, Guided Reading, and One-on-One)
Running Records/Guided Reading
Engaging the Brain

To increase students’ intrinsic motivation and keep their attention:

- Provide choices
- Make learning relevant and personal
- Make it engaging
- Change in location
- Balance of novelty and ritual
Student Engagement

- Emphasis on practice – meaningful, independent practice
- Teacher models and students take responsibility for their own learning
- Students share in decision making
- ALL students get to participate in work stations for equal amounts of time, with equal access
- Allows for differentiation
- Students internalize what is taught
Slow Down

- Take lots of time at the beginning of the year.
- End of October?
- Class management in place; routines and structures understood
- Gradual addition of material
In the beginning…

Show children exactly:

- How to use equipment
- How to share materials
- How to take turns
- How to use planning board
- How to solve problems
- Where to go for help
- How to put things away
- How to switch to next station
Training the Class

- Whole class instruction
- Modeling, showing how to do something
- Inviting students to help out
- Gradually turning over more of the task as student skills increase
- Move into independent practice
- Risk-free peer interactions; acceptance, peer-tutoring; constructivism
And just when will this happen???

- Maintaining balanced literacy program – our story – how to make it work without regimentation
- Practical application of literacy skills with specific focus
- Within first block before morning recess – 40 minutes ~ or so…
  - Dependent on group, day, teacher needs
  - 2 rotations
Practice and Purpose: Link to your Teaching

- Begin with what you are trying to teach the whole class – your purpose – then figure out what materials you want to use.
- Teach the process of working with the materials within the context of the whole class so children become familiar with the tasks and understand the expectations.
- If student practice is directly tied to instruction, students will follow-through and will understand process.
Organization

- Which Station Am I At Today?
  - Student Chart
  - Pocket Chart

- Station Signs
- Center or Literacy Work Station
Planning Boards/Organization
Classroom Library/Reading Station

- **Browse**
  - Author books in a basket
  - Fiction books
  - Non-fiction books
  - Magazines
- **Stuffed character toys and reading glasses**
- **Class created books**
- **Independent or with a partner**
Classroom Library/Reading Station
Classroom Library/Reading Station
Big Book Station/Charts/Posters

- Big Books
- Class created big books:
  - Retelling
  - Original stories
- Non-fiction
- Pointers
Big Book Station/Charts/Posters
Big Book Station/Charts/Posters

Days of the Week

The days of the week go round and round,
Round and round, round and round.
The days of the week go round and round,
And start all over again.
The first day of the week is Monday,
Then Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,
Friday, Saturday, Sunday.
And start all over again!
Writing Station

- Pattern stories:
  - I like __________.
  - I see __________.
  - This is __________.
- Mailbox
  - Letter writing props and materials
- Shared Writing
- Create original stories
- Stamping (capitals and matching lower case letters, class names, sight words, theme words, stamp picture/word)
- Lists, categories, picture dictionaries
Writing Station
Writing Station
Drama Station

- Scan characters or photocopy (enlarge & color) for stick puppet characters
- Shadow puppets
- Puppets
- Masks
- Flannel board stories
- Foam characters with magnets
- Dress-up; plays; retellings
- Story telling kits
Drama Station
ABC Station

- Put letters in alphabetical order
- Sets of alphabet letters in different fonts/colors
- Match upper & lower case
- Alphabet books
- Phoneme sounds – matching pics and letters
- Alphabetize words
- Alphabet puppet stories
ABC Station
ABC Station
Word Work

- Create sentences with word wall words
- Word searches
- Match images with word cards
- Stamp character names from word cards
- Building blocks – make words
- Write words on dry-erase boards
- Spell different words using letter tiles
- Word families/chunks
- Elkonin boxes
Word Work
Word Detective Station

- Write the room
- Write words according to given category:
  - Compound words
  - Words with a certain vowel
  - Contraction words
  - Words with a certain amount of letters
  - Blends or digraphs
  - Words that begin with a certain letter
Word Detective Station
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Poetry Station

- Poems
- Nursery Rhymes
- Songs

Read and Rebuild
Poetry Station
Computer Station

- Games
- Story DVD’s
- Web sites
- KidPix – create character images
- Kidspiration
  - Web character traits
  - Retellings
  - Finding images for each character
- Type words, sentences, stories and insert clip art
Computer Station
Listening Station

- CD’s/cassettes for stories
- Your recorded readings of class stories
- Children’s recordings of their reading stories
- Storyline Online - http://www.bookpals.net/storyline/
Listening Station
Puzzles, Games Station

- Literacy Games
  - File Folder Games

- Puzzles
  - Alphabet Puzzles
  - Number Puzzles
Puzzles, Games Station
Pocket Chart Station

- Sequence and read familiar poems and songs
- Rebuild text
- Play “Making Words”
- Match pictures to words
- Match classmates names to photographs
- Sort pictures and words by categories
Pocket Chart Station
Overhead Station

- Read overhead of poems and songs and circle and discuss familiar words and spelling patterns
- Use letter tiles to spell given words (sight words)
- Word family overheads
- Alphabet (fill in the missing letters, match letters, etc)
Overhead Station
Science Station

- Research projects
- General interest topics – dinosaurs, animals, bugs
- Animal figurines
- Real materials
- Browsing or specific tasks
- Fiction and non-fiction
Science Station
Social Station

- Current events
- Maps
- Table top reconstructions of neighborhood; mapping playdough; characters/community props
- “Feelings” stories
- Friendship issues
- Chart problem-solving strategies
- Puzzles and games (e.g. Canada puzzle)
- Growing older stories
- Create a diorama
Social Station
Sand Center - Literacy Station?

- Story figurines and props to create original dramatic play
- Make alphabet letters in the sand
- Hidden objects to be sorted into proper sound tub
Water Center – Literacy Station?

- Animal or character figurines – original stories
- Snow – Winter story creations
Blocks/Construction Center – Literacy Station?

- Build a big project relating to literature; e.g. Franklin house in your classroom
- Reconstruct story motifs/objects
- Create a zoo
- Create a park/playground characters e.g. for Franklin and his friends
Gym – Literacy Station?

- Extend literature through gym activities
- For example, the Franklin stories:
  - Play soccer, learn strategies
  - Floor hockey
  - Baseball
  - Movement like animals
  - Hide and seek outside
  - Scooter boards
Cooking Center

- Extend literature
- E.g. Franklin stories:
  - Make “fly” pie…
  - Tasting brussel sprouts
- Other examples: Stone Soup, Pancakes, Blueberries for Sal…
Alphabet Centers
Christmas Literacy Centers

- Where is Christmas? Sorting Bethlehem, North Pole, Edmonton images
- Gift Sounds – sorting pictures into present “letters”
- Magazines – cutting letters to make Christmas words
- Browsing books
- Eyeball It
- Wish List – toy brochures
- Card Station
- Listening
Christmas Hunt

- Find the elf with the purple hat.
- Find the elf with the candy cane.
Make the Alphabet

A B
## Hockey Literacy Centers

### Hockey Birthdays

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<td>October</td>
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Reading Tables – 1

Hockey Superstars
2006-2007

1. Who plays Right Wing?
   a. ______  ______
   b. ______  __________
   c. ______  __

2. Who plays Center?
   a. ______  ______
   b.  _____  _______
   c. ____  _____
   d.  ____  ______
   e. ____  ______
   f. ____  ______
   g.  ___  ________
Hockey Superstars
All-Time Greats!

- How many Stanley Cups did Syl Apps win? _
- Which trophies did Jean Béliveau win?
  _____' ____' _____, and the
  _____' _____' _____
- What years did Mike Bossy win the Stanley Cup? ____,
  ____' ____' ____
Stamping

Hockey Name Stamping Game

- Wayne Gretzky
- Edmonton Oilers
- Jacques Plante
- Stanley Cup
- Playoffs
Word Match

- helmet
- goalie stick
Drawing Team Logos
Sorting into Teams
Odd - Even
Balance Process and Product

- Include opportunities to create products at some, but not all stations/centers.
- Process offers effective practice for proficiency.
- When students have internalized expectations, they become accountable in their work – whether process or product.
- Student shares (Follow up to literacy station time)
Literacy Stations

- Any topic your class is working on, interested in
- Any specific skill you are targeting
- Individual or small group
- Open-ended materials that can be resorted and reorganized for another topic