

E-BOOK 6

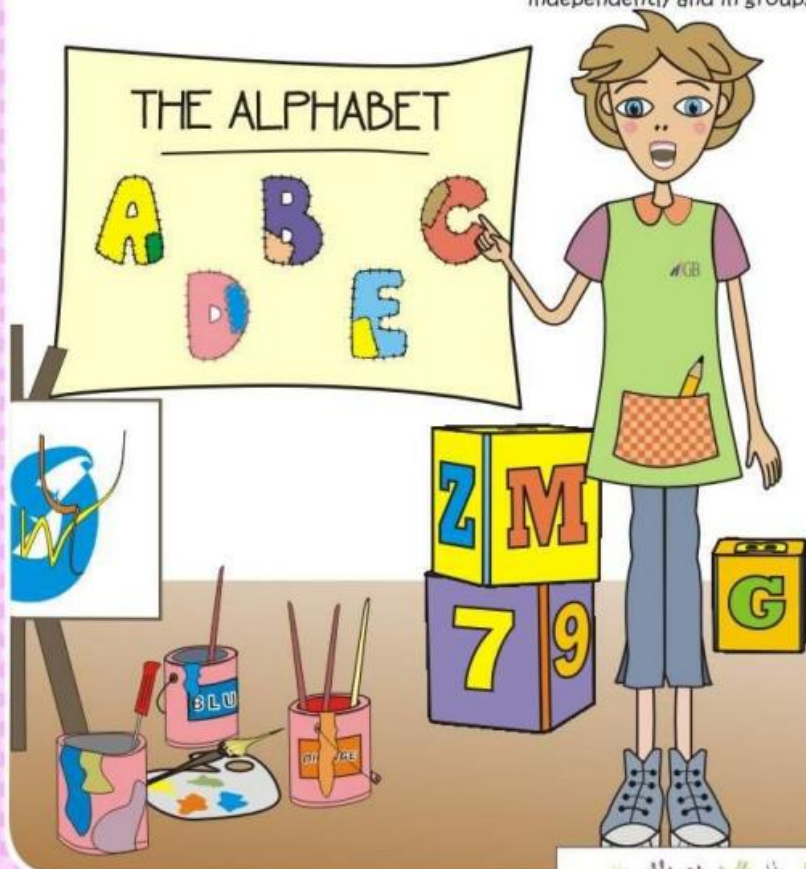
SAMPLE PAGES

N°6



"IMPLEMENTING LEARNING CENTERS at Preschool and 1st Grade"

Practical ideas to develop important early childhood skills and concepts while learning to work independently and in groups.



e-book
for EFL


CREATIVE TEACHING
Tools & Strategies of Excellence
to make a difference in your Teaching

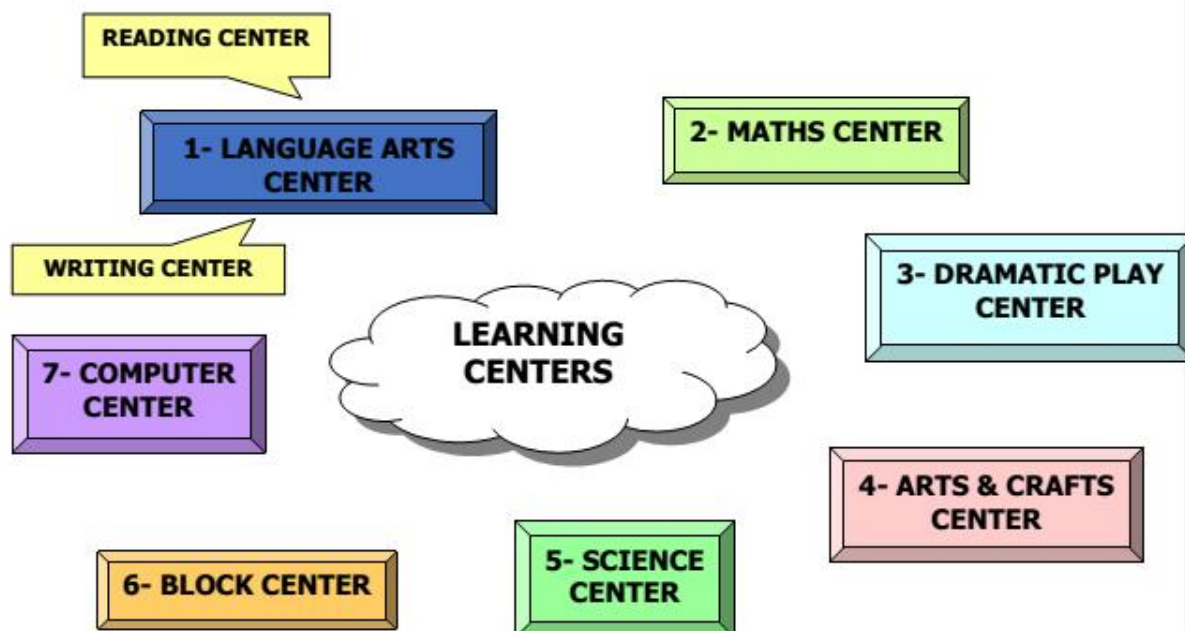
WORKING WITH LEARNING CENTERS

LEARNING CENTERS are areas in the classroom with interesting learning material for children to work:

- alone
- in pairs
- in small groups
- all together



LEARNING CENTERS ACTIVITIES provide Kindergarten students with great ways to practice their skills while learning to work independently and in groups.



How to run "Learning Centers"

- For a teacher, the most difficult part of Learning Centers can be how to coordinate them.
- Most of the center activities should run smoothly with little adult direction.
- Use Center Time for small group instruction.

Physical Environment:

Learning Centers are often permanent areas in the room, with materials that change according to changing themes.

Clarify your aims:

- to give children a chance to learn how to work in small, rotating groups of peers.
- to see how well students can work with minimal direction.

How can I use Learning Centers?

- 1) two or three tables would focus on different Literacy skills.
- 2) children would rotate every 10 - 15 minutes to each table.
- 3) the teacher would work with one of the groups on a skill that requires some guiding.

Arranging your Centers:

- Display and arrange materials in an attractive way.
- Materials should be placed in clearly labeled containers or on open shelves so that children can easily make their selection.



Literacy Center: Language Arts

READING CENTER

WRITING CENTER



Literacy Center: Reading & Writing Centers

Activities included in the LITERACY CENTER should be used for children:

- to be actively engaged in concepts previously introduced.
- to reinforce skills previously taught by the teacher.

Activities are all meant to help children begin the READING & WRITING PROCESS

READING CENTER:

READING CENTERS or BOOK AREAS encourage children to learn all aspects of printed language, including learning about:

- authors,
- illustrators,
- artists,
- the value and joy of reading.



Books should be chosen according to past and current themes and projects.

Our Book Corner:

This area should be cozy, comfortable, well lit, and may be decorated and rearranged according to themes.

It is useful to provide:

- a carpeted area,
- table and chairs for children to sit and read.
- a variety of books, some with only pictures and some with pictures and simple words.

WRITING CENTER:

- Design Pre -Writing Activities: they allow children to build knowledge in all areas of language development, including speaking, writing and pre-reading skills.
- WRITING CENTERS should have tables and chairs for kids to sit and write.

Letter formation:

Children can practice "letter formation" by:

- tracing the outlines.
- finger painting,
- using play dough to form the outlines.



Word Matching:

- The picture cards with the words printed on them can be used for word matching
- Children will match the words to pictures



Individual Dry Erase Boards:

Use one board for each kid for:

- Listening.
- Checking Comprehension.



There are many activities children can do with these INDIVIDUAL BOARDS:

Children can:

- draw pictures on them and retell what is happening in the pictures.
- practice writing letters ... numbers ... shapes ... simple words.
- copy or complete a pattern from the blackboard.
- make a certain number of objects, for example "draw five circles" or "write three letters"

MATH CENTER- Aims & goals:

NUMBERS AND OPERATIONS

The child:

- counts a collection of items
- understands "how many"

GEOMETRY AND SPATIAL SENSE

The child:

- recognizes and names a variety of shapes
- uses shapes to create a picture
- describes object locations with spatial words

PATTERNS AND ALGEBRA

The child:

- notices and copies simple patterns

DISPLAYING & ANALIZING DATA

The child:

- sorts objects, counts and compares the groups formed
- organizes and displays data through using simple graphs



DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER

DRAMATIC PLAY allows children to construct social and emotional knowledge and to understand others' perspectives.

Dramatic Play Concepts:

- Expressing creativity.
- Following directions.
- Cooperating.
- Predicting.
- Problem solving.
- Reasoning.
- Describing.
- Role-playing.
- Identifying characters.
- Exploring emotions.
- Identifying instruments.
- Developing rhythm



SCIENCE CENTER

Science leads to learning about the child's physical "self" as well as:

- Environmental awareness
- Plants
- Animals
- The world

Science Center Ideas:

- Sea life.
- Insects.
- Machines.
- Tool shop.
- Measuring.
- Pouring.
- Mixing.
- Recycling



BLOCK CENTER

BLOCKS are extremely valuable for learning about:

- Size.
- Quantity.
- Space.
- Length and Shape.

