

Primary Work Stations

Primary Work Stations (Adapt as Library Centers)

Creation Station. Students create anything they like using different textures of paper, ribbon, markers, etc. You might allow the students to create their favorite scene from a story recently read, a character puppet bag, etc.

Writing. Students may do anything, as long as it is writing. Center contains paper in different colors and sizes, pens, dry-erase boards and markers, alphabet stencils, and envelopes. Students sometimes write a story; respond to a story; or write a letter, song, poem, or note to a friend.

Computer. Students play pre-approved, curriculum-related games; write a story on Microsoft Word; do research, visit author websites; or practice math skills.

Dramatic Play. Students use puppets and dolls to pretend. This is a very popular station, even with the boys. They use the puppets to act out a story or make up a sequel. I keep a basket of books in this station for kids to explore.

Working with Words. This literacy station can be used with multiple ages depending on the activities provided, including magnetic letters, dry-erase boards, alphabet puzzles, rhyming games, and other phonemic awareness activities.

Listening Station. This station includes a CD player, headphones, and several stories on tape or CD. Students can select any story from the basket, listen with a buddy, and then respond by drawing or writing about the story. More advanced students make a character map or create an alternate ending to the story.

I also have a math station, fine motor skills station, and science/social studies station. You could also have an author study station, including several books by the same author and maybe an activity to go along with them. Space is sometimes an issue for work stations. Remember that every station does not have to have its own corner, nook, or area. Some stations can simply be a bucket or tub that can be carried anywhere in the room.

I have found it helpful to leave the basic structure and activities of the stations the same throughout the year. I do add one or two new activities or novelty items to each station every month. For example, I add a picture dictionary to the writing table for students to copy words and pictures from, or add a new colored pen.

I tell the students that when they go to work stations, they have jobs to do. Jobs are the different choices that I have given them. I also include “I Can” posters, which list the different choices they have. These are easy to add to as the year progresses.

–**Misty Bennett**, kindergarten teacher in Northside ISD, San Antonio, TX

