



BUILDING BLOCKS FOR CONSTRUCTING SELF-REGULATED CORNERS



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PURPOSE OF CORNERS

- o “Well-designed literacy tasks provide students with opportunities to transfer knowledge gained from assisted activities to independent contexts.”

Dorn & Soffos. *Shaping Literate Minds*
(2001)



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF CORNERS?

- o Opportunity to practice new knowledge
- o Meaningful tasks
- o Problem solving
- o Guided Reading groups



PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- Plan corner placements
- Ideas for corner spaces: small tables, pocket charts, behind bookshelves, on the side of file cabinets, easels, traveling corners in tubs
- Utilize space effectively



ORAL LANGUAGE CENTERS

- Housekeeping Center
- Fine Motor Center
- Blocks Center
- Playdough Center
- Cubby Center
- Puzzle Center
- Games Center
- Puppet Center
- Art Center
- Sensory Center

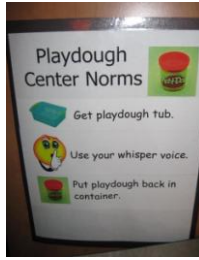


CORNER EXPECTATIONS/NORMS

- Create with students
- Visual
- Post somewhere the students can see
- Refer to often



CORNER EXPECTATIONS/NORMS



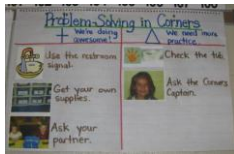
CORNER EXPECTATIONS/NORMS

- Have students reflect...

“Are you following our norms?”

“What is working well for us?”

“What do we need to work on?”



MODELING AND TEACHING PROCEDURES

- Model, model, model!
- Think through every detail
- Have students practice and praise

PROCEDURES

- Think about what procedures you want to teach:
 - Using the task board
 - Cleaning up corners and putting materials away
 - Changing corners
 - If they have a product, where will they put it?
 - Restroom signal
 - A visual signal to let students know not to interrupt
 - How to access materials



INTRODUCING CORNERS

- First introduced in an assisted situation
- Corner activities reinforce skills the students have already learned in class.
- Introduce one corner at a time
- Each literacy task includes a writing component.
(This may look different for Kindergarten.)
- Promote problem solving strategies
- Give students choice



INTRODUCING CORNERS

- MANY ways to organize corner rotation in your classroom
- Find what works best for you and your students
- Group students in partners
Example: high, low...boy, girl...same needs, etc.



TASK BOARD

- Promote student self-regulation
- Students know which corner they are supposed to go to
- MANY effective ways to organize a task board
- Teach and model how to use it



TASK BOARD



TASK BOARD



CHANGING CORNERS

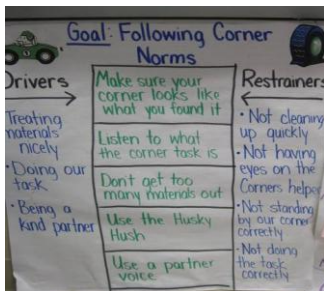
- Students visit 2-3 corners a day
- One way to have students change corners:
 - Set timer
 - Students clean up and stand quietly
 - Corners Helper gives non-verbal cues
 - The important thing is that the teacher does not stop teaching his/her small group

TEACHING STUDENTS TO PROBLEM-SOLVE

- Discuss specific problems that have come up...have students come up with ways to solve the problem
- Organize materials so students can help themselves
- Teach students that interrupting the teacher is not permitted



ANCHOR CHARTS



STUDENT WORK

- Travel logs
- Paper at each corner correlating with the student's task
- Several mini-lessons

EXAMPLES OF CORNERS

- ABC Corner
- Name Corner
- Pocket Chart Corner
- Library Corner
- Writing Corner
- Math Corner
- Computer Corner
- Science/Thinking Corner
- Listening Corner
- Poetry Corner
- Spelling Corner
- Word Building Corner

CORNER TASKS

- Corner activities should reinforce skills that have already been learned in class
- Look for ways to save time and money
- Collaborate with your grade-level team
- Change corner tasks frequently (at the beginning of each week)
- Don't reinvent the wheel! ☺
- Here are some *examples* of activities for a variety of corners in Kindergarten.

ABC CORNER

PURPOSE: *support emergent and early readers' attention to print*

Examples of ABC Activities:

- Sort letters according features (curves, straight lines, both)
- Linking letters to sounds
- Forming letters with a variety of materials
- Categorize words according to first letter
- Build high frequency words



NAME CORNER

PURPOSE: *provides students with personal opportunities to learn about print*

Examples of Name Corner Activities:

- Sort names by the number of syllables
- Build names with magnetic letters
- Match pictures with names
- ABC order
- Identifying vowels



POCKET CHART CORNER

PURPOSE: *reinforces the skills students are learning during whole group word/name work*

Examples of Pocket Chart Activities:

- Identify rhyming words
- Sort pictures by long vowel sounds
- Identify familiar chunks and blends
- Build picture words with letters
- Sort words by ending rimes



LIBRARY CORNER

PURPOSE: *allows students to implement successful reading practices and to read for enjoyment*

- Change out books that you have on display
Example: author studies, seasons, unit themes, etc.
- Wide range of reading materials
- Organize books so students can easily return books to the right tub

WRITING CORNER

PURPOSE: *allows students to write for a variety of purposes and audiences*

Examples of Writing Activities:

- “Write the Room” with a clipboard and fun writing tool
- Create a “big book” using large paper books
- Use a picture of a familiar place to write a story
- Shape books
- Recipes

MATH CORNER

PURPOSE: *reinforces skills you are teaching in math*

Examples of Math Activities:

- Create numerals using playdough
- Measure with nonstandard units and record measurement
- Create a collage using items with a similar attribute
- Geoboards
- Calculators

- *Everyday Math games
- *Game cards

COMPUTER CORNER

PURPOSE: allows students to strengthen literacy and math concepts while also reinforcing important skills needed for using a computer

Examples of Computer Activities:

- Everyday Math
- Starfall
- PBS Kids
- Storyline
- Whole group activities from the SmartBoard
- Smart Notebook exploration

SCIENCE/THINKING CORNER

PURPOSE: promote problem solving skills and inquiry while reinforcing concepts students are learning in science

Examples of Science/Thinking Activities:

- Sensory table
- Sort pictures of animals according to their covering (feathers, scales, fur, etc.)
- Sort objects according to the material they are made of (metal, wood, paper, plastic, etc.)
- Use a microscope to closely investigate a variety of materials. Record what you saw.
- Games that encourage critical thinking and problem solving skills (memory, puzzles, etc)

LISTENING CORNER

PURPOSE: allows students to hear fluent language while following along with the book

- Books used during Shared Reading or books for enjoyment
- Label the buttons on the CD or tape player.
- Teach students how to problem solve.
Example: What if they can't hear? the tape is not rewound? the headphones come out?

POETRY CORNER

PURPOSE: reinforces skills taught during shared reading and word work

Examples of Poetry Activities:

- Identify and produce rhyming words
- Use highlighter tape or strips to highlight given words or word parts
- Use magnetic letters to construct and deconstruct words
- Build the poem with word cards

SPELLING CORNER

PURPOSE: provides students with opportunities to work with their spelling words

Examples of Spelling Activities:

- Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check
- Build words with a variety of materials
- Alphabetize the words using word cards then write the words
- Use the word in a sentence

WORD BUILDING CORNER

PURPOSE: allows students to work on a task specially created to support their reading and writing development

Examples of Word Building Activities:

- Change onset to make new words
- Sort words according to similar rimes
- Provide picture cards and students must build words using magnetic letters

INTRODUCTION OF GUIDED READING

- After introducing corners, you are ready to begin guided reading groups. (In Kindergarten, this may consist of word work with some groups who are not yet ready for books.)
- Students should be actively engaged in corner tasks allowing the teacher to conduct guided reading groups without begin interrupted.
- Same literacy anchors as used during whole group instruction– ABC chart, blends chart, reading strategies, etc.
- Organize materials so you can capitalize on the time you have with your groups.

IN CONCLUSION...

- Effectively implementing corners in your classroom allows you to:
 - provide differentiated instruction
 - scaffold students' learning
 - provide undivided attention to your guided reading groups
 - promote transfer of knowledge
 - reinforce learned skills
 - provide students with opportunities to problem solve

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