

Guidelines for Developing Literacy Centers

- Start with the student; plan what literacy center to create with the student in mind.
 - What knowledge do students have as readers or writers?
 - Will they be able to work independently and/or collaboratively at the center?
 - Think about ways to make the center engaging and motivating for all students.
 - Think of the materials and the students' reading and writing levels.
 - What will the student's role be?
 - What will your role be?
- Think about the purpose of your literacy center.
- Identify where to create the literacy center.
- Choose a theme, topic, or focus for the center.
- Decide on how you will organize resources and materials (print or non-print) at the literacy center.
- Make a list of directions explaining how students should use the center.
- Teach students how to use the center; monitor their understanding of its use and provide feedback as needed.
- Monitor student participation in the center (develop a system [e.g., a checklist] for tracking it).
- Create routines for students to use while at the center.
- Develop reading and writing activities for small group or independent work.