

Examples of Small-Group Reading and Writing Activities

- Link a variety of reading and writing activities to learning centers.
 - Select reading and writing concepts or skills to address. Choose activities that help children to understand, practice, and apply previously taught information.
 - Centers are NOT “busy work.” Link all activities to classroom instruction. Centers should provide additional practice and extend learning for ALL children.
- Provide choices: Some children need more practice than others and benefit if activities remain in centers for extended periods of time.
 - Larger, ongoing projects provide something to do for children who complete other work.
 - Incorporate activities/lessons that you teach in whole or small groups for extra practice. Struggling learners benefit if some elements of reading, such as phonemic awareness or phonics practice, are sequenced from less difficult to more difficult tasks.
 - Provide opportunities for children to engage in a wide range of tasks and activities representing various levels of complexity, such as activities that promote writing.
- Many of the instructional practices and activities provided in the academy can be used in centers while you are working with a small group.

Sample Reading and Writing Activities:

- Make words using cut-apart letters.
- Make words with letter tiles, magnetic letters, etc.
- Write words using previously taught spelling patterns (e.g., use dry-erase boards).
- Conduct a Word Hunt for other words that follow spelling patterns used in a Making Words lesson.
- Listen to a book on tape and read along in the book.
- Read a story on the computer.
- Tell a story to a friend using the felt board for a book you read or a story you wrote.
- Retell a story using puppets.
- Retell a story to a friend.
- Draw a picture about a story you read.
- Read a book and tape record it.

- Read around the room with a pointer.
- Read by yourself or with a partner.
- Read a _____ (e.g., information book, alphabet book, book about a topic studied, poem).
- Read from your book box or journal.
- Make an alphabet book.
- Write in your journal.
- Write a story.
- Make a book for a story.
- Write a story on the computer.
- Write someone a letter or make a greeting card.
- Write a report using information books.

Adapted from Morrow, L. M. (2001). *Literacy development in the early years: Helping children read and write* (4th ed.). Needham Heights, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

Sample Activity Plan

Center: Social Studies

Literacy-Related Activity Idea: Make words using cut-apart letters

Objective: Children identify letters to read names of classmates.

Materials: Envelopes, cut-apart names of children in class, names of children written on sentence strips for matching, and photographs of children (if available)

Preparation: Place each cut-apart name and matching sentence strip in an envelope. Place photograph (if available) on outside of envelope.

Procedures: Children make the name by matching letters to the name on the sentence strip. As they learn each other's names, the sentence strip will no longer be needed as a model. *Optional:* Use sentence strips cut apart into words for children to reconstruct sentences about social studies topics.

Activity Plan

Center: _____

Literacy-Related Activity Idea: _____

Objective: _____

Materials: _____

Preparation: _____

Procedures: _____

