

Literacy Center Rotation Scheduling

Once you know how much time you have for your literacy block, you can be creative in scheduling your literacy centers. This page and the next page gives suggestions for how to set up your rotations based on how much time you have. Fast facts to print these suggested schedules to use as bookmarks.

AN "OK" OPTION
45 MINUTE
Literacy Center Rotations

10 WHOLE GROUP WARM-UP ACTIVITY OR MINI-LESSON

A "GOOD" OPTION
90 MINUTE
Literacy Center Rotations

15 WHOLE GROUP MINI-LESSON

Literacy Center Rotation Scheduling

THE "BEST" OPTION
120 MINUTE
Literacy Center Rotations

10 WHOLE GROUP WARM-UP ACTIVITY OR MINI-LESSON

When you meet with a small group to target needed skills, the rest of the students are engaging in literacy centers that are also targeting needed skills.

Remember: These time frames are just suggestions. Keep your rotations and groups flexible at the beginning of the year so that you can observe and test out the best scenarios for your students.

Here's another possible scenario for a 120-minute literacy block:

- 10 minutes whole class warm-up
- 20 minutes with Group 1
- 20 minutes with Group 2
- 20 minutes with Group 3
- 20 minutes with Group 4

Grouping Students

Once you know your students' strengths & weaknesses with literacy, you can begin your plan for how to group them. There are two types of grouping options for literacy centers:

1. Fixed Groups: These groups are chosen by you and they rarely change. Some teachers use awards, color-coded systems, and other symbols to organize these groups. In your teacher roles & binder, you may have them labeled as Group 1, Group 2, etc.

Student-Led Literacy Centers

Several 3rd-5th grade teachers also use Choice Boards, also referred to as Learning Menus, to manage their literacy centers.

Choice Boards allow students to choose which centers to work on depending on a set of pre-determined options by the teachers.

These boards help us to mix and match with literacy center choices that students need to complete within a designated time frame.

Allowing student choice for your literacy centers increases student motivation and autonomy in the classroom.

Table of Contents

◆ How To Launch Literacy Centers Guide pgs. 1-13

What Are Literacy Centers?

- ◆ Understood
- ◆ Quoted
- ◆ How to
- ◆ Differentiated
- ◆ Helpful
- ◆ Sample Literacy

Guidelines for Planning Your Centers

Before you begin scouring Pinterest for literacy center ideas, it is important to know the answers to the following questions. Use this page as a checklist.

1-How Much Time Do I Have for Literacy Instruction Each Day?

More Info on Grouping Students

How Many Students Should I Use for Groups?
 The ideal group for students is 3-5 students. For instance, if I have 25 3rd graders, I like to group them in 5 groups of 5 students each. Based on student learning needs, you may not have that many students, and that's okay. The ideal grouping question could be a huge challenge.

Differentiated Instruction

Once you know how much time you can devote to literacy instruction AND you have the tools for grouping students, you can dig deeper into ways to differentiate your centers.

You DO NOT have to put a different literacy center for every single student. Here are some simple examples for how to differentiate effectively.

- ◆ Use audio reading programs like [Lexia](#) (free for elementary teachers) to choose appropriate reading levels for your listening center.
- ◆ Color-code your literacy centers. Then assign certain groups of students to certain colors to ensure they're getting the practice they need.
- ◆ Use choice boards or learning menus with multiple options for literacy practice. For example, a spelling choice board could have several different ways for students to work on their spelling words that would appeal to every level of learner.

There are just a few ways to differentiate literacy instruction. A good literacy program will already be interested to ensure every differentiator.



Planning Your Literacy Centers

Congrats on making it through the first three steps of establishing literacy centers in your classroom. Now you can make plans to begin building your inventory of centers.

Center Organization

- Many teachers use the following types of storage for their literacy centers:
- ◆ 10 or 2 drawer rolling cart (like the one you saw pictured on the previous page)
 - ◆ Shelves
 - ◆ Bins
 - ◆ Baskets
 - ◆ Boxes
 - ◆ Paper bags
 - ◆ Plastic containers

Helpful Supplies

I love hands-on learning with my literacy centers! Upper elementary students benefit with kinesthetic learning for literacy growth. These items below are suggestions and will vary depending on the type of centers you choose for your students. Do not feel pressured to purchase lots of supplies right away for your literacy centers. Use what you have on hand and grow your inventory as the need arises.

- o Index Cards & Sticky Notes
- o Student Whiteboards
- o Anchor Chart Paper
- o Lots of Books
- o Craft Sticks/ Popsicle Sticks
- o Lots of Magazines
- o Letter Tiles /Magnetic Letters
- o Newspapers
- o Headphones & a Toy
- o Book Bins or Baskets

Now What Do I Do???

- Step 1:** Pat yourself on the back for completing this entire guide!
- Step 2:** Take a deep breath and know that you CAN DO this. Some wasn't built in a day, so be prepared to put in some work for these centers to run smoothly in your classroom.
- Step 3:** Go back to page 2 of this guide and make sure you have the answers to the questions listed. Check off each box as you work through the questions. This information will be the blueprint for your centers.
- Step 4:** Print the packet for rotation bookmarks on pages 8 and 9.

Literacy ce

Name of Literacy Center Act

- 25 L
 items in 350 are available
- 1-Nouns—Look in a Book
 - 2-Playing Boggle to Make Words
 - 3-Prepositions Spinner
 - 4-Correct the Text—A Book
 - 5-Magazine Reading List
 - 6-Buddy/Partner Reading

More Literacy C
 If you want more details
 classroom, here is a list o

Suggested

Month	Literacy
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduce L • Choose 2-3 • Centers Gr • Teach pro • Literacy Ce • rotations • look in a B
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Lite • Students • Choose 3-4 • Literacy Ce • continue e • resources • Teach pro • Centers if • look in a B • Choose 4-5

Step-by-Step Guide on Literacy Centers for 3rd-5th Grade