



# Reading and Listening Center Tips

Use the IQ Guide for the Learning Environment to ensure that you have the required items accessible to children each day. When materials are accessible, children are able to use them without adult assistance. During early years, children build the foundation for reading and writing. Young children need many realistic opportunities to use emerging skills and enjoy experiences with literature. Positive encounters with books and other printed materials help children become literate and learn to read and write. Learning areas should draw children to the area and capture their interest in books, writing and other related literacy materials.

## Reading Center

### Furnishings:

⇒ **The library area should be cozy and inviting to young children and should include soft seating.**

Examples include: Furniture    Rug    Lamp    Pillows    Stuffed Animals

**Ensure the following reading area materials are accessible, labeled, and organized:**

- 📖 **Books for the number of children enrolled in the class:** At least one book per child should be available in the reading area. There should be a variety of books to meet the varying literacy levels of students. This can include books with few or no words per page, 1-2 paragraphs per page, or books with short sentences for emerging readers.
- 📖 **Books that reflect current topics are in the classroom:** Reading books about current topics being discussed in the classroom further expands children's vocabulary and knowledge about the subject. Young children learn best by being able to actively see and work with materials related to what is being discussed in the learning environment. As topics change, these books should be rotated.
- 📖 **Books are displayed and organized:** Displayed books should be neatly organized with front covers facing so children can see and make choices.



### Props for Language and Literacy Development

**Books** **Props to develop alphabetic principle (3 types):** Alphabetic principle is the idea that letters and letter patterns represent the sounds of spoken language. Children’s reading development is dependent on their understanding of the alphabetic principle. Materials can include:

- |                          |                    |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Letter Puzzles           | Displayed Alphabet | Word Cards                     |
| ABC Matching Games       | Alphabet Bingo     | Letter Stamps/Stencils/Sponges |
| ABC Wooden Blocks        | Letter Tiles       | Interlocking Letter Cubes      |
| Magnetic/Flannel Letters | Computer Keyboards | Letter Dice                    |

*\*These items may be in or near the reading center, but they can also be throughout the room.*

**Books** **Props to promote language development (3 types):** Language and literacy props are materials placed in various learning areas to promote language development. These materials include but are not limited to:

- |                           |                |            |                               |
|---------------------------|----------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| Flannel Board and Stories | Big Books      | Telephones | Teacher-Made Games            |
| Class-Made Books          | Magnet Stories | Puppets    | Cell Phones or Walkie-Talkies |

Flannel board stories should be familiar to the children so they can practice retelling and sequencing stories. Language and literacy props should be clean, unbroken, and contain all pieces.

### Listening Center

**Books** **Listening station or device with headsets and jack for 2-4 children (CD, mp3 player, tablet, or any other electronic device that can play recorded stories). A minimum of two books or stories needed.** To be accessible, the listening center equipment should be ready for student use (plugged in, have working batteries, be charged, etc.).

