

Writing Center Tips

The IQ Guide for the Learning Environment lists required Writing Center/Area materials. Teachers often designate a specific desk or other table as a Writing Area, but it is also acceptable to utilize a portable organizational cubby or other tub as long as there is a table accessible and all required items are present and organized. Writing Areas that are efficiently organized and attractively displayed will be utilized more frequently.

Please note that it is also required that additional materials to develop literacy skills (reading and writing) are present in every center. Teachers often have a specific tub in each center to store these supplemental literacy materials.

- Writing instruments of various sizes (3 types):** Rotate types out throughout the year to keep children interested and engaged, but ensure that there are always at least 3 types of writing instruments accessible, organized, and labeled. (Items need to be separate from art center required items) Options include:

Crayons Pencils Markers Chalk Colored pencils Pens

- Vocabulary Cards with Words and Pictures:** It is required that at least one set of word cards with pictures is included in the center. These could be on a key ring, posted at children’s eye level in the area, or otherwise accessible for children to use when practice writing words that are relevant to them. Teachers often have the word cards match the topic the class is studying. Topics may include:

Farm Animals Vehicles Shapes Toys Fairy Tale Characters
 Pets Food Community Helpers Dinosaurs Classroom Objects

- Real/found materials (3 types):** These items may need to be restocked often. This is a clear sign that children are engaged in using the writing center. Teachers may want to use a variety of consumable and reusable items to meet this requirement to lessen the need for constant replenishing. Items may include:

Address Books Blank Forms Blueprints Catalogs Coupons Store Brochures
 Logos Greeting Cards “Junk” Mail Magazines Newspapers Order Forms
 Post Cards Stationery Envelopes Sale Flyers Calendars Telephone Books
 Stickers Keyboard Recipe Books Manuals Newsletters Clipboard



Paper (3 types): Ensure that paper is replenished as necessary so at least three types are always accessible. *(Items need to be separate from art center required items.)* Types of paper may include:

Lined	Unlined	Construction	Newsprint	Tracing	Index Cards
Post-Its	Graph	Journals	Message Pads	Cardstock	Composition Books

Name cards of children in the classroom with picture and name: A set of student name cards should be present in the writing area. All children should be represented, and each card should include a picture of the child and the preferred first name. Last names may also be included. Teachers often keep the cards on a key ring in order to help prevent cards from being lost. Teachers may want to make additional sets to be utilized in other areas of the room.

Other items that are not required, but can enhance the writing area:

Erasers	Cookie Cutter Letters	Sand/Salt Tray	Sandpaper Letters
Stencils	Wooden Letters	Hole Punch*	Paper Clips
Rulers	Picture Dictionary	Tape	Alphabet Cards
Stamps	Stapler*	Scissors	Rubber Stamps/Ink Pads

*Check with your director regarding any safety concerns with having this item accessible to students.

