

Notepad Creations

Materials needed:

A variety of notepad sheets
A supply of lined paper
Glue
Pencils
Markers

Center Setup: Display the materials at a center.

At the center:

A student selects a notepad sheet.
He glues the notepad sheet to the top portion of a sheet of paper.
He writes a corresponding story and a title.
If time allows, he may add illustrations to the notepad sheet.

Fishing for Stories

Materials needed:

Permanent marker
4 plastic fishbowls
28 construction paper fish cutouts
lined paper
pencils

Center Setup:

Label each bowl with a different story element (characters, setting, problem, solution)
Label seven fish with examples of specific story elements to correspond with each bowl.
Store the fish in their matching bowl.
Display the bowls, paper, and pencils at the center.

At the center:

A student draws a fish from each bowl.
He writes a story using the story elements on the fish.
If time allows, he may illustrate his story on the back of the paper.

Story On A Stick

Materials needed:

5 plastic cups
supply of craft sticks
a fine-tipped permanent marker
lined paper
pencils

Center Setup:

Label each cup (Who, What, When, Problem, Details)
Program several craft sticks with examples to match each cup.
Store the craft sticks in their corresponding cups.
Display the cups, paper, and pencils at a center.

At the center:

A student selects a craft stick from each cup.
She uses the information on each craft stick to write a story.
If time allows, she may illustrate her story.

Word Soup

Materials needed:

plastic letters
a large plastic bowl
lined paper
pencils

Center Setup:

Place the plastic letters in the bowl.
Display the bowl, paper, and pencils at the center.

At the center:

A student takes six letters from the bowl.
He writes the letters at the top of a sheet of paper.
He arranges one or more of the plastic letters to spell a word.
Each time a word is made, he writes it on his paper.
If time allows, he may take another set of six letters and repeat.

Cooking Is Elementary

Materials needed:

a simple no-cook recipe (examples: ants on a log, Rudolph sandwiches)
ingredients for making the recipe
a marker
paper plates
napkins
hand-sanitizing wipes

Center Setup:

Display the materials in the center.

At the center:

A student uses a hand wipe to clean her hands.
She follows the recipe step-by-step to create the snack.
The student writes her name on a paper plate and places her completed snack on it.
She covers her snack with a napkin and places the plate in the designated area until snack time.

Picnic Stories

Materials needed:

5 large resealable bags
picnic basket
15 small items
lined paper
drawing paper
pencils
crayons or markers

Center Setup:

Place three items in each resealable bag.
Seal the bags and put them in the picnic basket.
Display the basket, paper, pencils, and crayons in the center.

At the center:

A student chooses a bag from the picnic basket.
He writes a story on paper using the three items.
He illustrates his story on the drawing paper.
He returns the sealed bag of items to the picnic basket.
If time allows, he may pick another bag from the basket and write another story.