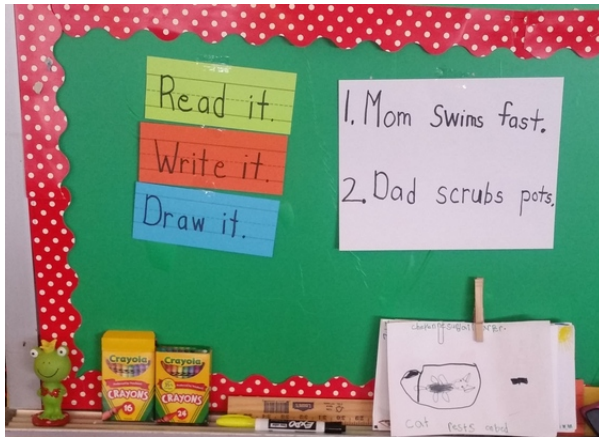


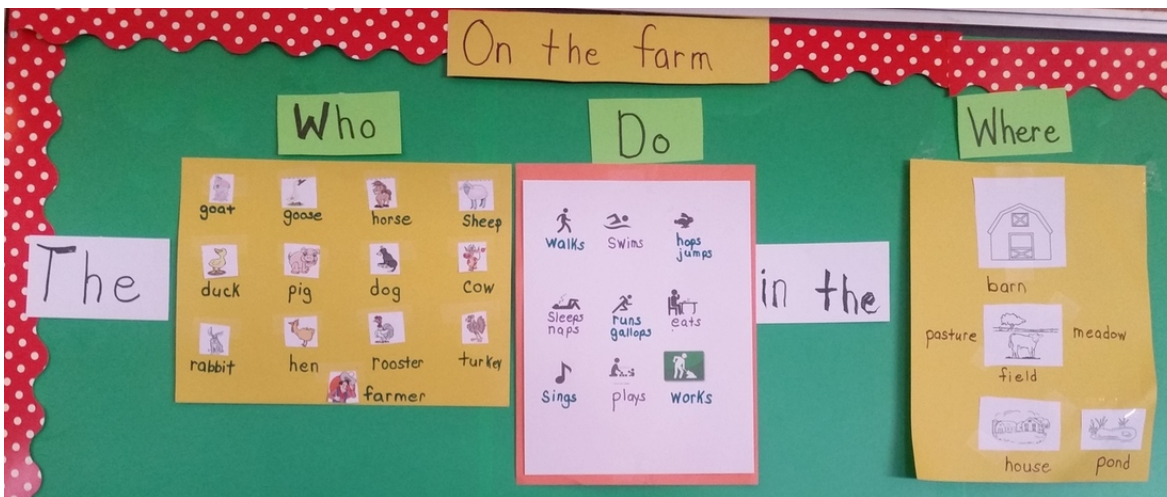
Literacy How-To: Create a Successful Writing Center



Effective Centers Can be Simple

In working with hundreds of teachers, Literacy How Mentors often hear about the challenge of creating and managing meaningful learning centers. Great centers are worth the effort since they free up teachers for differentiated, small group instruction and allow students to practice skills independently or collaboratively. Centers needn't be elaborate to be effective. Easy-to-differentiate word sorts, for example, are ideal for word study centers.

Our Mentors were delighted by these simple writing centers in a Philadelphia kindergarten classroom where we work. In the center shown above, students read two *decodable* sentences, then practiced the writing conventions they had been taught—starting sentences with a capital letter, spacing words, and using punctuation. Students chose one sentence to illustrate, demonstrating their understanding of what they'd written.



Use Centers to Confirm and Consolidate Learning

The second writing center shown above features ideas the students brainstormed about the farm, demonstrating their understanding of that Core Knowledge unit. It also reinforced a syntax lesson modeled by a Literacy How Mentor. By providing labeled pictures, the teacher reduced her students' cognitive demands for producing correct spelling and helped reinforce new vocabulary for Dual Language Learners.

Click on Writing in Literacy How's Reading Wheel to learn more about [explicit writing instruction](#). Check out [this article by Reading Rockets](#) to learn more about creating effective learning centers.

www.literacyhow.com

203-239-7323

Send us an Email

Our Mission is to **EMPOWER TEACHERS** to ensure that every child learns to read by third grade.

100 Broadway 2nd Floor | North Haven, CT 06473 US

