



Setting up the Room



By Steve W. Dunn

Meeting Areas

Have a whole group meeting area for focus lessons and sharing. This is very important because you will find that kids attend better when they are in close proximity.

Have a small group table for homogeneous instruction.

Using this setup for reading, math, and other curriculum areas

The whole group area can also be used for shared reading, whole group word work lessons, expository research, etc. This area could also be used for math instruction. The small group instruction area can be used for guided reading, small reading groups, and to meet with guided literature circles. It can also be used for small group word work, 1-to-1 conference, or assessment. Make sure all assessments are kept within reach so that you can work with students without having to scramble for materials.

What you need in whole group/small group area

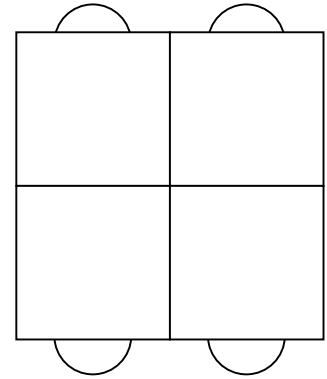
Make sure that you have everything you need in the teaching areas. Often, teachers put the whole group and small group area right together since they need the same materials in each area. Consider:

- Do I have a teaching easel or chart rack that I can write on?
- Do I have enough chart paper?
- Do I have different color markers, highlighter tape, scotch tape, pins for hanging up posters, etc. within hands reach?
- Do I have an area nearby that I can hang posters, so that I can refer to them during focus lessons?
- Is there a white board or writing surface that I can put extra paper if I need it?
- Are my assessment tools by my small group area?
- Do I have class sets of white boards, markers, and erasers or chalkboards, chalk and eraser?
- Do I have resource materials close by, such as a dictionary, thesaurus, etc.?
- Do I have an overhead projector, transparencies, overhead pens, etc.?

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Student Desks

Set up the desks in a table-like manner (see diagram to left). Put four desks together so students can work in groups. Make sure you have heterogeneous groups at these desks. This will help with learning tasks and discipline. You need to **TRAIN** children how to work together. Do not let them establish their behaviors – you do it for them through training. Make sure the groupings at the table are heterogeneous.



Wall Space for Posters and Word Wall

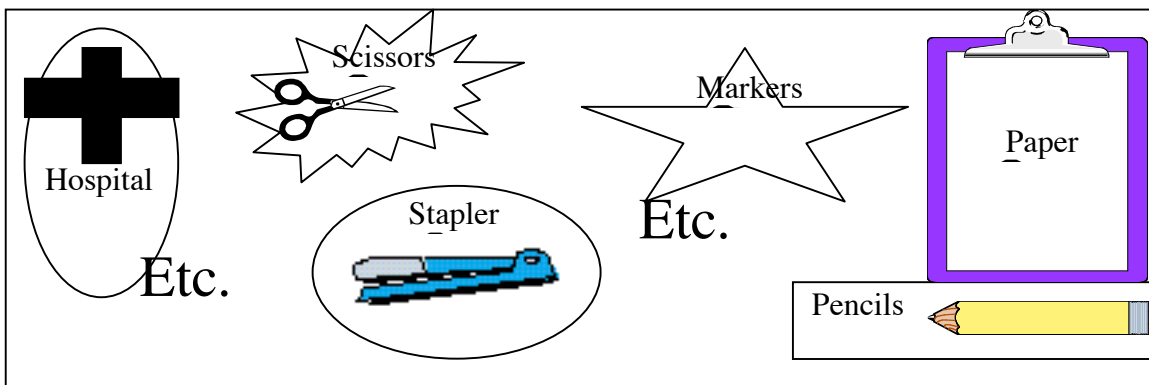
Have space to place the posters from focus lessons. In addition, have space for a word wall. If you do not have room for a word wall, tape a word list inside the writing folder.

Graphic Organizers Storage

Have a place for the graphic organizers so children do not have to ask you for what they need.

Resource Table

Have a resource table with the supplies that kids will need during writing workshop. Cover the table with butcher paper so you can draw where things should be housed. Have a special basket, called your hospital, for supplies that are broken or unusable. Include extra pencils, dictionary, thesaurus, Speak and Spell (if possible), scissors, tape, stapler, staple remover, editing tools (colored pencils), small pencil sharper, paper, etc.



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Computers

Programs like Microsoft Word® can be used for publishing and checking spelling. *In order for this spell check to work, you must have enough phonemes within the word for the computer to suggest what word you are attempting.* In addition, it can be used to recommend synonyms.



Other ideas: