Activities for Developing a Literacy-Rich Environment

Books, Books, and MORE Books!

Reading isn't just for the reading area! Books can enhance just about every area of the classroom or home.
When we place books throughout the environment, children:

- learn that reading is a worthwhile activity
- develop personal interests in reading
- learn that there are many different kinds and uses of books.

Directions: There are many kinds of books and printed materials that can be placed throughout the classroom or home. Invite the children to suggest kinds of books needed and where particular books might be stored for maximum availability and convenience. Included below are some suggestions for each learning area.

Housekeeping Area: Cookbooks, food magazines.

Block Area: Books about construction, construction workers and building. You might also add books about vehicles: trains, cars, airplanes, helicopters, and buses.

Art Center: Arts and crafts books, books about famous artists and their work, children's picture books with an art theme, such as Tomi dePaola's *The Art Lesson*.

Music Center: Books about famous musicians and different kinds of instruments, song picture books and children's picture books with a music theme, such as *Brementown Musicians* by Ruth Belov Gross.

Science/Discovery Center: Books about famous scientists, books with simple science experiments, and informational books with science-related topics, such as animals, plants, insects, birds, ocean life, and the five senses.

Computer Center: Add books related to the software programs or to the classroom theme. For example, if using a "talking book" such as *The Ugly Duckling* or *The Princess and the Pea*, have these books available at the computer center. If the classroom theme is "farm," place farm-related books at the computer center and at the reading and writing centers.

Writing Center: Books with a writing theme, such as *The Jolly Postman* by Allan and Janet Ahlberg can be placed in this center.

Math Center: Add books that portray math concepts, such as ones about size, shapes, patterns, measurement, and time. Also add counting books, and books with a math theme, such as *Eating Fractions* by Bruce McMillan, and *The Doorbell Rang* by Pat Hutchins.