



## **Learning Centers Toolkit**

**Tools to help you generate ideas, plan, create, implement, monitor and refine your learning centers to make the most of your learning center experiences for both you and your students this school year.**

# Learning centers that I want to implement this year

*"To accomplish great things we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe" – Anatole France*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_



## What tools do I need in order to successfully implement my learning centers?

*"Success is liking yourself, liking what you do and liking how you are doing it" - Maya Angelou*

**Learning Center 1** \_\_\_\_\_

**Essential Question:** What skills do I want my students to learn via this center?

\_\_\_\_\_

Group of students I anticipate serving with this center \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated weekly frequency of this center \_\_\_\_\_

Center theme \_\_\_\_\_

|                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Knowledge Resources Needed: | Instructional Materials Needed: |
| Physical Supplies Needed:   | Technology Resources Needed:    |

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| Action Items: | Follow up Steps: |
|---------------|------------------|

**Additional Thoughts**

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**Learning Center 2**

**Essential Question:** What skills do I want my students to learn via this center?

Group of students I anticipate serving with this center \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated weekly frequency of this center \_\_\_\_\_

Center theme \_\_\_\_\_

|                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Knowledge Resources Needed: | Instructional Materials Needed: |
| Physical Supplies Needed:   | Technology Resources Needed:    |
| Action Items:               | Follow up Steps:                |

## Additional Thoughts

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## Learning Center 3

**Essential Question:** What skills do I want my students to learn via this center?

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Group of students I anticipate serving with this center \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated weekly frequency of this center \_\_\_\_\_

Center theme \_\_\_\_\_

|                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Knowledge Resources Needed: | Instructional Materials Needed: |
| Physical Supplies Needed:   | Technology Resources Needed:    |
| Action Items:               | Follow up Steps:                |

## Additional Thoughts

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**Learning Center 4** \_\_\_\_\_

**Essential Question:** What skills do I want my students to learn via this center?

Group of students I anticipate serving with this center \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated weekly frequency of this center \_\_\_\_\_

Center theme \_\_\_\_\_

|                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Knowledge Resources Needed: | Instructional Materials Needed: |
| Physical Supplies Needed:   | Technology Resources Needed:    |
| Action Items:               | Follow up Steps:                |

**Additional Thoughts**

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**Learning Center 5** \_\_\_\_\_

**Essential Question:** What skills do I want my students to learn via this center?

Group of students I anticipate serving with this center \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated weekly frequency of this center \_\_\_\_\_

Center theme \_\_\_\_\_

|                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Knowledge Resources Needed: | Instructional Materials Needed: |
| Physical Supplies Needed:   | Technology Resources Needed:    |
| Action Items:               | Follow up Steps:                |

**Additional Thoughts**

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# Checklist for Learning Center Success

Based heavily on the following articles

Janelle Cox, "How to Set Up Classroom Learning Centers". See full citation below

Coach G's, "Four Keys to Effective Classroom Learning Centers. See full citation below

## Essential Question: What skills do I want my students to learn?

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Depending upon the different skills you want your students to learn, this will determine the number of and types of learning centers you will need.

### A couple of important reminders when creating learning centers:

**Provide meaningful tasks:** Centers tasks in any content area should be interesting, challenging, and when possible, provide students a chance to practice skills in authentic ways--meaning that activities help students connect their learning to the real world or develop real-life habits of mind.

**Assess the impact.** Whether by observing students as they're working, collecting student work to review, or engaging students in reflections on their learning, teachers must monitor student progress. It's important to know when students need support or scaffolding and when they need to be challenged further.

| Step   | Notes   | ✓ |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| The materials needed for each center and place them into separate folders or baskets so they are ready for the students. |   |   |  |
| A list of rules and behavior expectations to present to the students before the centers begin.                           |   |   |  |
| A sign for each center so the students know which center to go to next.  |   |   |  |
| Clearly stated directions for each learning center.  | Laminate the directions so they last.   |   |  |
| Setting up the Classroom   | Notes   |   |  |
| Groups should consist of a minimum of three students and maximum of five students.                                       | This gives students the opportunity to be able to complete tasks on time, and move around freely. |   |  |

|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>Use all areas in the classroom for centers: Rugs, reading areas, and even outside the classroom door.</p> <p>Organize the materials for each of the learning centers in baskets, folders or totes and place them in the specific learning center space.</p> <p>Group with intention: Centers allow students to work in different configurations including independently, in groups they choose based on interest, and in mixed ability or leveled groups.</p> <p>Assign each student to a group and center, then have them rotate through centers using as scheduled.</p> <p>After each center is completed, allow time for the students to place the center materials back for the next group.</p> | <p>If space is an issue, consider grouping desks together to create individual work areas. This is a good set-up if you are teaching reading groups or doing a mini-lesson while the students are participating in centers.</p> <p>This will ensure components of the activity are organized and easy to clean up and store materials.</p> <p>Grouping decisions must always be intentional, based on the nature and purpose of each activity.</p> <p>You can also assign each group or center a color so the students know where to go to next. Use a countdown clock to help students better manage their time.</p> <p>Have a basket for the students to put their completed center work.</p> |  |  |
| <b>Presentation</b>  |   |  |  |
| <p>Create, communicate, and practice procedures.</p> <p>Take time to present the rules and directions for each learning center.</p> <p>Point out or physically bring the students to each center when explaining the directions.</p> <p>Show students where the directions will be located.</p> <p>Show them the materials that they will be using in each center.</p>   | <p>Create comprehensive procedures, communicate them to students, and allow adequate time to practice them until they become routine.</p> <p>It is important that students understand the expectations of each center before letting them go on their own. This way if you are using center time to work with individual students you will not be interrupted.</p>  |  |  |



|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Explain in detail the purpose of the activity they will be working on.</p> <p>Clearly explain the behavior that is expected when working in small groups.</p> <p>Post the rules and behavior expectations in a place where students can refer to them.</p> <p>Tell the students the phrase you will use to get their attention.</p> | <p>For younger children, role play the behavior that is expected in the centers.</p> <p>Depending upon the age group, some younger students respond to a bell or hand clapping rather than a phrase.</p> |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|

Cox, Janelle. "How to Set Up Classroom Learning Centers." ThoughtCo, Jun. 14, 2018, [thoughtco.com/how-to-set-up-classroom-learning-centers-2081841](https://www.thoughtco.com/how-to-set-up-classroom-learning-centers-2081841).

Ginsburg, David. "Four Keys to Effective Classroom Learning Centers" EdWeek, Feb. 28, 2016, [https://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/coach\\_gs\\_teaching\\_tips/2016/02/four\\_keys\\_to\\_effective\\_classroom\\_learning\\_centers.html](https://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/coach_gs_teaching_tips/2016/02/four_keys_to_effective_classroom_learning_centers.html)

# Learning Center Student Contract

1. I will come to the learning center ready to learn and engage with other students and the content.
2. I will follow the center guidelines/rules as outlined by the teacher and the instructions.
3. I will behave respectfully toward other students within my center.
4. I will be open to others' opinions and viewpoints.
5. I will not be disruptive to the rest of the class while in my learning center.
6. I will respect the materials in the center.
7. I will be responsible for putting away materials and turning in assignments in an orderly and timely fashion.
8. I will move from center to center without causing disruption and in a timely manner.
9. I will communicate with the teacher about what I may need additional support on as well as if something is too easy for me and I need an additional challenge.
10. I will offer suggestions to the teacher if there is something I think could make the center/s even better.

## Top 5 things I CAN DO to make this learning experience a success:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Teacher Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Learning Center Mid-Year Student Feedback Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period \_\_\_\_\_

**What do I like most about the learning centers?**

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**Which is your favorite learning center and why?**

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**Which is your least favorite learning center and why?**

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**My suggestions for improving our learning centers include:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**What additional learning centers would be fun?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Are there additional resources we could use in our learning centers? If so then what would those be?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you feel the centers are helping you learn what you need and want to learn? If YES HOW?**

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**If NO, WHY NOT and WHAT DO YOU NEED in order to learn more and be successful?**

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**Mid-Year Teacher Center Review**

**Learning Center 1** \_\_\_\_\_

**Are students learning the skills I anticipated when designing this center? If no  
Is additional support needed?**

**For struggling students** \_\_\_\_\_

**For students with special needs** \_\_\_\_\_

**For advanced students** \_\_\_\_\_

**For diverse learning styles/preferences** \_\_\_\_\_

**Any challenges for students when at this center?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Any modifications I want to make to this center?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional resources needed**

|                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Knowledge Resources Needed: | Instructional Materials Needed: |
| Physical Supplies Needed:   | Technology Resources Needed:    |
| Action Items:               | Follow up Steps:                |

**Additional Thoughts**

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Learning Center 2

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Are students learning the skills I anticipated when designing this center? If no

**Is additional support needed?**

For struggling students

For students with special needs

For advanced students

For diverse learning styles/preferences

**Any challenges for students when at this center?**

1.

2.

3.

**Any modifications I want to make to this center?**

1.

2.

3.

**Additional resources needed**

|                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Knowledge Resources Needed: | Instructional Materials Needed: |
| Physical Supplies Needed:   | Technology Resources Needed:    |
| Action Items:               | Follow up Steps:                |

**Additional Thoughts**

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**Learning Center 3** \_\_\_\_\_

**Are students learning the skills I anticipated when designing this center? If no  
Is additional support needed?**

For struggling students \_\_\_\_\_

For students with special needs \_\_\_\_\_

For advanced students \_\_\_\_\_

For diverse learning styles/preferences \_\_\_\_\_

**Any challenges for students when at this center?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Any modifications I want to make to this center?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional resources needed**

|                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Knowledge Resources Needed: | Instructional Materials Needed: |
| Physical Supplies Needed:   | Technology Resources Needed:    |
| Action Items:               | Follow up Steps:                |

**Additional Thoughts**

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Learning Center 4** \_\_\_\_\_

**Are students learning the skills I anticipated when designing this center? If no  
Is additional support needed?**

For struggling students \_\_\_\_\_

For students with special needs \_\_\_\_\_

For advanced students \_\_\_\_\_

For diverse learning styles/preferences \_\_\_\_\_

**Any challenges for students when at this center?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Any modifications I want to make to this center?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional resources needed**

|                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Knowledge Resources Needed: | Instructional Materials Needed: |
| Physical Supplies Needed:   | Technology Resources Needed:    |
| Action Items:               | Follow up Steps:                |

**Additional Thoughts**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Learning Center 5** \_\_\_\_\_

**Are students learning the skills I anticipated when designing this center? If no  
Is additional support needed?**

**For struggling students** \_\_\_\_\_

**For students with special needs** \_\_\_\_\_

**For advanced students** \_\_\_\_\_

**For diverse learning styles/preferences** \_\_\_\_\_

**Any challenges for students when at this center?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Any modifications I want to make to this center?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional resources needed**

|                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Knowledge Resources Needed: | Instructional Materials Needed: |
| Physical Supplies Needed:   | Technology Resources Needed:    |
| Action Items:               | Follow up Steps:                |

**Additional Thoughts**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Learning Center End-of-Year Student Feedback Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period \_\_\_\_\_

What did you like most about the learning centers?

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Which was your favorite learning center and why?

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Which was your least favorite learning center and why?

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My suggestions for improving our learning centers include:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

What additional learning centers would be fun?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Are there additional resources we could use in future learning centers? If so, then what would those be?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Do you feel the centers helped you learn what you need and want to learn? If YES HOW?

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If NO, WHY NOT and WHAT DO YOU THINK would be helpful for other students in the future in order to learn more and be successful via the learning centers or something else?

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## End-of-Year Teacher Center Reflection

Learning Center 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Are students learning the skills I anticipated when designing this center? If no

Is additional support needed?

For struggling students \_\_\_\_\_

For students with special needs \_\_\_\_\_

For advanced students \_\_\_\_\_

For diverse learning styles/preferences \_\_\_\_\_

Any challenges for students when at this center?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Any modifications I want to make to this center?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Learning Center 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Are students learning the skills I anticipated when designing this center? If no

Is additional support needed?

For struggling students \_\_\_\_\_

For students with special needs \_\_\_\_\_

For advanced students \_\_\_\_\_

For diverse learning styles/preferences \_\_\_\_\_

Any challenges for students when at this center?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Any modifications I want to make to this center?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Learning Center 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Are students learning the skills I anticipated when designing this center? If no

Is additional support needed?

For struggling students \_\_\_\_\_

For students with special needs \_\_\_\_\_

For advanced students \_\_\_\_\_

For diverse learning styles/preferences \_\_\_\_\_

Any challenges for students when at this center?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Any modifications I want to make to this center?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Learning Center 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Are students learning the skills I anticipated when designing this center? If no

Is additional support needed?

For struggling students \_\_\_\_\_

For students with special needs \_\_\_\_\_

For advanced students \_\_\_\_\_

For diverse learning styles/preferences \_\_\_\_\_

Any challenges for students when at this center?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Any modifications I want to make to this center?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Learning Center 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Are students learning the skills I anticipated when designing this center? If no

Is additional support needed?

For struggling students \_\_\_\_\_

For students with special needs \_\_\_\_\_

For advanced students \_\_\_\_\_

For diverse learning styles/preferences \_\_\_\_\_

Any challenges for students when at this center?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Any modifications I want to make to this center?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

While your reflection period is going on, and your creative juices are flowing, maybe you have additional ideas for new centers. Write them down here and then go rest, recover and rejuvenate over the summer- You've earned it!

| My New Center Idea | What skills do I want them to learn via this center? |
|--------------------|--|
| 1.                 |  |
| 2.                 |  |
| 3.                 |  |
| 4.                 |  |
| 5.                 |  |