

Art Centers for Extended Learning presented by Sheryl Depp

Art Centers for Primary students

I generally spend part of one class session, at the beginning of the school year, explaining the rules and directions for each center. (Kindergarten students are only allowed at the reading center until I think they are ready.) There are photographs for easy clean up. Students go to centers on a rotation based on their assigned table color. Photos of each center are at the top of my white board with colored clips designating each table.

Play Doh-Table is set up with placemats, a basket with a variety of tools, and several different colors of containers of Play Doh. (Skills)

Legos- Lego table filled with Legos is set up on an area rug. If Lego table is unavailable you can use an under the bed storage container. All Legos were donated for this center. (Critical thinking)

Books- Fill a few baskets with picture books and place on an area rug for your primary students. Most books are library discards. (Historical connections)

Puzzles- Are on shelves in open boxes with photographs of the finished puzzle. Some I made myself from paintings I found in books. (Historical connections)

Blocks and/or cubes-Were donated and are in tubs on the shelf in the center along with books, puzzles and shoe tying. (Critical thinking)

Shoe tying- A few pairs of children's sneakers to practice lacing and tying. (Skills)

Shape Search-Set up a projector with artwork to project onto a whiteboard and have student's search and outline shapes that they see in the art. (Organizational structure)

Drawing-Includes baskets filled with stencils, tracers, drawing sheets, pencil and paper (old printer paper, donated scraps and/or newsprint). Baskets are on a bookcase, which is on an area rug. Clipboards are also included. (Organizational structure)

Learning Stations for Intermediate students

The areas in the room where I maintain these centers and stations share space with each other. There are work sheets in each area for the intermediate students to work on. Colored table clips can be a starting point, however if a student didn't finish a work sheet from the week before they may go back to that station to complete it.

Learn about Artists- There is a basket of Scholastic Art Magazines along with books from the series *Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists*. On the wall is a folder with the worksheets and directions. There are also pencils and clip boards available. (Historical and Global connections)

Learn about Vocabulary-I am too busy to change out vocabulary words so I decided to make a poster with photographs and definitions and give students the option of picking out a new word each time they visit this station. There are work sheets, pencils and clipboards for students to use. (Skills and Critical thinking)

Learn about Artwork-This station has a reproduction poster of a famous work of art hanging up. Also, a directions on *Steps to Understanding Art*, trays to lean on when writing, pencils and work sheets. This of course needs to be changed out, however instead of posters – postcards can be hanging up for students to chose from. (Historical and Global connections)

Learn about Art Careers-There is a basket that has pencils and career cards from a deck called *Careers for Kids ART*, as well as work sheets. (Innovation, technology & the future)

Learn about products or tools- I don't always have the time to show students how to use something or to find out what they think about products I get from vendors. So, I set up a basket, write out directions for students to follow and let them try out tools and mediums. (Skills)

Murals- I have not tried this, but I thought it would be great to have small groups of children collaborate on a special project. (Innovation)

Posters- Students can make posters or cards for special events going on at school or in district. (Innovation)