

# Writing Center Ideas

A writing center can be developed using a small table, chairs and a shelf for supplies. Supply the writing center with a variety of materials, which are changed frequently and reflect the current interests of the children. The center will be more usable to the children if the materials are efficiently organized and attractively displayed. Remember to include opportunities for writing in all center areas of the classroom.

## Materials for Writing Center

### Writing Tools

- Assorted sizes of crayons
- Assorted sizes of markers
- Assorted sizes of pencils
- Colored chalk
- Colored pencils
- Erasers
- Pens

### Writing Enhancers

- Chalk and chalkboards
- Cookie cutter letters (used as stencils)
- Erasable tablet
- Flannel board and felt letters
- Magnetic letters and magnetic surface
- Rubber stamps/ink pads
- Sand/salt tray
- Sandpaper letters
- Stencils
- Typewriter and paper
- Wipe-off boards and markers
- Wooden letters

### Writing Materials

- Alphabet cards
- Book making materials
- Braille alphabet cards
- Name cards
- Paper in a variety of sizes, textures and colors (lined and unlined)
- Sign language alphabet cards
- Word-picture cards

### Resources

- Clipboards
- Hole punch
- Paper clips
- Picture dictionary
- Rulers
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Stickers
- Tape
- Tracing Paper

### Real and Found Materials

- Address books
- Appointment pads/books
- Blank forms
- Blueprints
- Calendars/date books
- Carbon paper
- Catalogs
- Counter checks
- Coupons
- Envelopes
- Environmental Print/Logos
- Graph paper
- Greeting cards
- Index cards
- Journal books
- "Junk" mail
- Magazines
- Message pads
- Newspapers with large print
- Note pads
- Order forms
- Post cards
- Post-it note pads
- Receipt forms
- Rolodex
- "Stamps"
- Stationary
- Store brochures
- Store sale flyers
- Telephone books

## Portable Writing Center Ideas

Almost anything you have can be turned into a portable writing center. Use the ideas below to incorporate writing centers into your daily routine, learning centers, outdoor play, or rest time (use as quiet activities during for children who are not sleeping).

Shoe box, tackle box, tool box, briefcase, backpack, pocket book/purse, bags of any kind (gift, tote, canvas, etc.), lunch box, shoe or jewelry organizers, picnic basket or other baskets, desk organizers, mini drawers, small suitcases, make-up or toiletry bags, and aprons (tool or cooking).

*Remember to display the children's writing efforts in the classroom (on the walls, language experience charts and graphs, chart stories, and in class made books). Collecting samples of writing efforts as the year progresses will show children's growth and development.*

### **Excerpt from Georgia's Pre-K Content Standards**

LD 6. Children will begin to develop age-appropriate writing skills

	<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Examples</b>
LD 6 a	Experiments with a variety of writing tools, materials and surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draws or writes using pencils, markers, crayons, paint, shaving cream</li> <li>• Draws or writes on paper, cardboard, chalkboard, dry-erase board</li> </ul>
LD 6 b	Uses scribbles, shapes, pictures and letters or other forms of writing Stages of writing: Pictures Scribbles (squiggle lines and shapes) Letter-like forms Copies letters/words from the environment Uses letters to represent sounds in words Labels objects in drawings Connects words to form sentences Creates a story with beginning, middle, and end	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses scribble writing and letter-like forms</li> <li>• Draws pictures to represent ideas</li> <li>• Copies word cards from the writing center</li> <li>• Writes name or names of friends</li> <li>• Copies words from environment</li> </ul>
LD 6 c	Understands that print is used to communicate ideas and information (writing for a purpose)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writes list in the dramatic play area</li> <li>• Makes signs in the block center</li> <li>• Writes messages for friends or adults</li> <li>• Writes name on work to show ownership</li> </ul>
LD 6 d	Begins to dictate words, phrases, and sentences to an adult recording on paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tells an adult a story to record</li> <li>• Identifies objects in drawing/painting for adult to record</li> </ul>