

Written Document

By Jenny Avis

Standard I-G “Organize and prepare materials to support learning and the teaching process.”

Developing Learning Centers

While working with the teacher in the resource classroom, our desire was to address all learning levels of our students who came to us during different times each day.

We had instructional materials that supported our curriculum-based assessment and IEP goals that guided instruction, but we needed a system for students to practice newly learned skills. I remembered that playing games as a child helped me to have fun while learning, so I started looking for ways to provide this to our students.

I visited other classrooms to observe how teachers in a regular classroom accomplished this and I discovered the many benefits of Learning Centers. While gathering ideas on how to construct Learning Centers, I found two books that gave me a lot of ideas. These were:

- **Words Their Way** by Shane Templeton and Donald Bear
- **How to Keep the Rest of the Class Reading and Writing While You Teach Small Groups** by Susan Sinney

I soon discovered these benefits of Learning Centers:

- It allowed the students to work independently
 - It allowed students to become responsible
- It helped the students to feel motivated because the “games” were fun
- Students looked forward each day to Learning Center time
 - It enabled the children to make choices

The important learning skills were in vocabulary, spelling, and math. When children worked at the Learning Centers, they were able to practice the concepts that they already knew during independent practice. We found that those students who were allowed to take full advantage of these centers improved their basic skills while we were taking turns instructing other students.

I have attached the pre and post scores and samples of a learning center in each level. Sometime you “win some then you win some.” Learning centers have had that effect on our resource student’s progress.