

## Ideas for Creating the Reading Center

The reading center is, ideally, a carpeted area of the room, or a small “nook” that includes a chair or child-sized sofa.

Create a small center library using a selection of classroom or library books. You may choose to align the books with a theme students are studying in class (such as fall, Martin Luther King, Jr., or other pertinent topics).

Students can select from a collection of five or six featured books for the week, or they can choose from a center “library” of books that you replenish periodically with new titles.

In any case, be sure that the books you've selected for the reading center include books that are appropriate for a range of reading levels.

Then plan center activities using some of these ideas:

- Have students select and read independently books of varying levels.
- Have pairs of students read books of varying levels quietly.
- After reading books of varying levels, ask students to write in their reading journals about what they read or have them complete a book review.
- Have students “read the room,” looking for specific words or patterns discussed during instruction.
- Provide books that relate to a theme you are exploring in class or books by an author you are reading in class. Then students can write in their reading journals or complete a book review.