



Setting Up the Balanced Literacy Classroom

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Introduction

The balanced literacy classroom must be set up to encourage and motivate students, as well as to help meet the requirements of the standards for English Language Arts & Literacy. The classroom should include space for whole-class instruction, areas for small-group work, and quiet areas for independent work.

Whole Group

- Large group area for students to sit together to learn and collaborate (desk arrangement or place on carpet to sit beside a partner for whole-group instruction)
- Texts for shared/class reading, such as the *ezym}*-Reading/Writing Workshop, as well as big books and picture books as needed
- Word study resources, such as vocabulary and spelling cards
- Chart stand for visual charts and chart paper, markers, and sticky notes
- An interactive whiteboard (if available) or overhead projector to display digital lesson resources
- Hands-on literacy tools that support student learning

Small Group

- Table or area for small-group instruction and practice
- Leveled Readers
- Leveled Reader Lesson Cards (if available)
- Word study resources, such as vocabulary and spelling cards
- Small stand-up chart stand to display visuals
- Pencils, markers, sticky notes, index cards, dry erase boards
- Visual anchor charts from whole-group lessons (as needed) for reference
- Hands-on literacy tools and any other hands-on resources

Independent Work

- Areas for students to read, write, engage in word study quietly and independently or to work with a partner or small group
- Access to a rich classroom library, including texts of a wide variety of topics, genres, authors, content areas, and reading levels that is organized in a way that is accessible to all students