

Workshop

Workshop is the time each day for small-group instruction. Workshop develops over time as students internalize classroom routines that promote independence. During Workshop, you will be working with small groups of students while other students are practicing and reviewing skills, developing listening skills, working on fluency, reading a wide range of other materials, writing, or engaging in Inquiry activities.

Workshop areas that focus on different areas of literacy should be set up in your classroom. For example:

Reading Area Provide as many books as possible for your classroom Reading Area. During the course of the year, students will be asked to do much reading on specific subjects. Prepare your classroom ahead of time by bringing in books on the concepts or themes students will be studying. You may choose to order the **Leveled Readers, Leveled Science Readers, or Leveled Social Studies Readers** that accompany the program, or you may decide to provide your own library. In either case, you should encourage students to bring in books that they have enjoyed and want to share with their classmates.

Fluency Area This area can be incorporated into the Reading Area. It should contain items such as leveled reading materials, **Decodables**, computers, and timers. This is an ideal place to keep student fluency folders to chart their progress in fluency.

Listening Area Each selection in the **Big Books, First Readers, and Student Readers** is recorded on CDs for use in your classroom. As you read each selection, encourage students to listen to the recording during Workshop. Provide one or two CD players that work with and without headphones. In this way, individual students may listen to selections without disturbing the rest of the class.

You also should encourage students to record their own stories and then share these stories with their classmates.

Writing Area The Writing Area should contain materials students can use to write and illustrate their work and to facilitate students' efforts as they work together on unit investigations, including

- pens, pencils and crayons
- assorted paper
- old magazines students can cut up
- scissors and staplers
- reference books such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, and thesauruses
- computers—preferably with Internet access. The SRA Home Page (see www.sra4kids.com) includes materials specifically related to our unit themes.
- books on themes the students are studying