

Centers Choice Board

The “Centers Choice Board” assists children with understanding what activity areas are open during center time. The pictorial representation allows children to recall the various areas of choice and make a selection. Some children may need to carry the picture during the transition to the area of choice. Allowing a child to choose an area gives the child the opportunity to do an activity of preference, which may prevent problem behavior. If you limit the number of children in each center area or you only open designated areas, the board indicates to the child what is open or closed. If an area is closed, the child can watch you remove or turn that picture over to cue that he/she needs to make another choice.

The visuals are not numbered to allow for user flexibility. For developmentally younger children, a photograph version is easier for the child to understand. Some teachers may want to use the version provided as a model to create their own personalized version by photographing pictures in their environment. Cut pictures out, laminate, and place on a strip of laminated cardstock (or file folder) to form a choice board. If you have a limit as to how many children can be in a center, the teacher can turn over the picture to indicate that the activity is “full” and no longer a choice and then prompt the child to make another center choice. See slide 2 for assembling directions and slide 3 for printing directions.



Assembly Directions

If your class calls an activity something other than what is currently available on the picture please feel free to make adaptations. You can double click on the word, located above the picture, to change the text label. Also, a blank template for 2x2 pictures or photographs has been provided on the last slide. If you would like to personalize pictures or make additional picture prompts, you can paste the pictures into the template and add text using the "text box" on the bottom tool bar.

Once you print the pictures on cardstock (printing directions on slide 4), cut them, laminate them, and place a piece of Velcro (rough side) on the back of each picture and a small sliver of a piece on the front side above the text. Velcro on both sides allows the teacher to turn a picture over to communicate when an area is full or closed and still have it stick to the board.

Attach the picture to a laminated file folder. The folder (or board) should have strips of Velcro (the soft side) across the front (see photograph of sample). Some teachers find it useful to store the closed areas/extra pictures on the back of the file folder. Others may create a "storage binder" with tabbed file folders for picture storage (see photo sample of a storage binder in the "Class Visual Schedule" file).

To view photographs at a larger size, go to "view" on tool bar and then to "zoom".

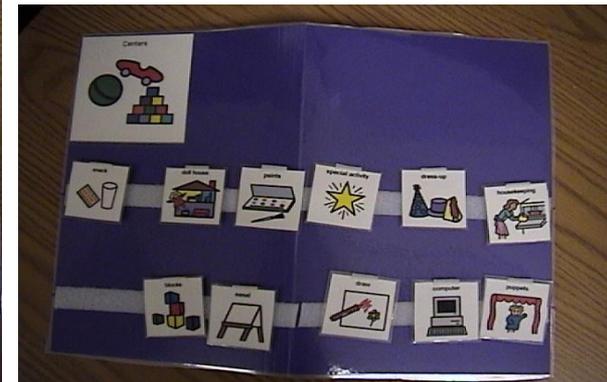
FRONT VIEW

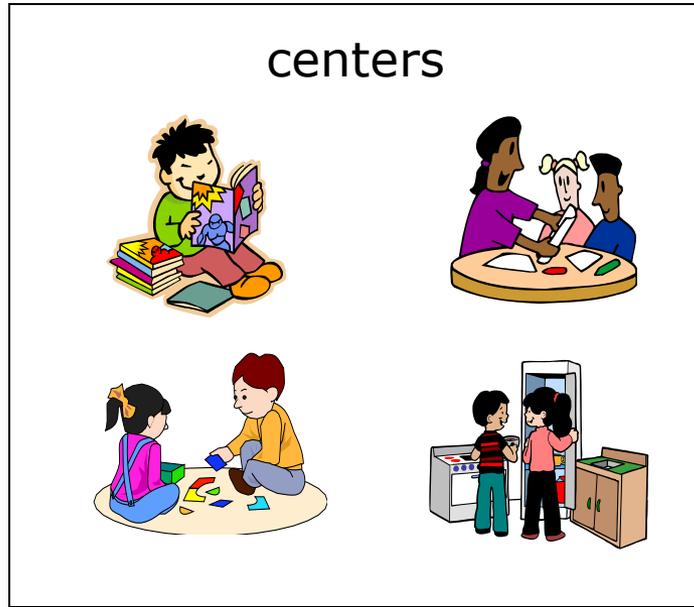


BACK VIEW



OPEN VIEW



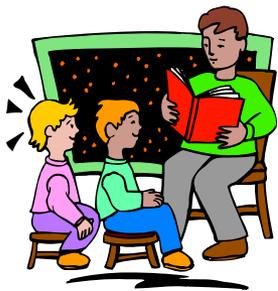


Cut out “centers” picture and glue onto file folder board prior to laminating the file folder. See sample photograph below.



Samples use pictures from Microsoft Clipart® and Boardmaker®

story time



instruments



snack



snack



puppets



special activity



writing



doll house



cooking



housekeeping



housekeeping



speech therapy



physical therapy



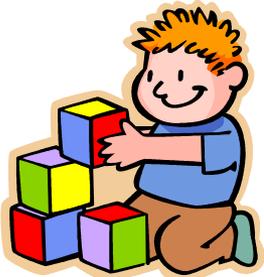
dress-up



writing



blocks



occupational
therapy



paints



easel



computer



water/sand
table



stories



puzzles



cooking



science



play dough



puppets



finger paint



small group



table activity



Physical therapy



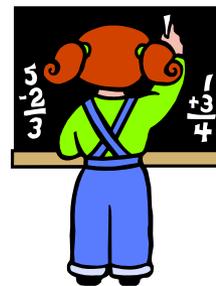
birthday



art



chalkboard



doctor



quiet area



listening



music



cut and paste



snack



pinwheels



bubbles



swing



slide



sprinkler play



snack



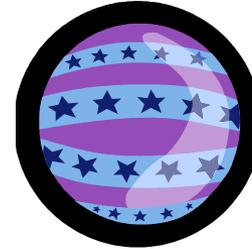
trikes



slide



ball



sandbox



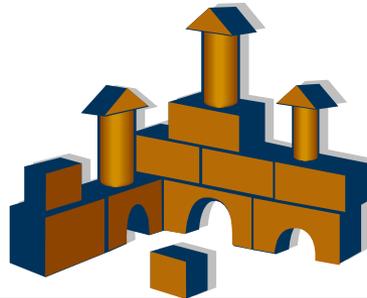
sidewalk chalk



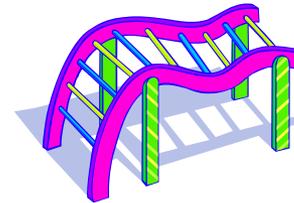
wagon



big blocks



climb



garden



OUTSIDE CENTER CHOICES
