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## Getting Started with Library Centers

1. Find a space in your library: tabletop, area rug, bulletin board, wall.
2. Set up a simple learning center, like read to self (all you need is a sign), or a jigsaw puzzle with an educational picture like the United States or solar system.
3. Let your students go to the library centers after the lesson and book check-out.
4. You don't have to change centers for different classes. Make your centers mutli-age so that it's easier for you.
5. You don't have to set up a center "rotation" system. Let students follow their interest. Train them to go to a different center if their first choice is "full" according to your sign.
6. After you get your centers started and teach expectations, you can start making your centers more challenging, coordinating them with curriculum.
7. Follow our blogs for more center ideas!

Mrs. Lodge's Library: [mrs-lodges-library.com](http://mrs-lodges-library.com)

Risking Failure: [bit.ly/riskingfailure](http://bit.ly/riskingfailure)

The Centered School Library: [librarylearners.com](http://librarylearners.com)

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## Why Library Centers?

A **library center** is an area in your school library where students work independently or in small groups, on activities that reinforce or extend learning which began with whole-group instruction in the library or classroom.

Learning centers in the school library can:

- Allow student choice
- Encourage self-directed learning
- Engage your learners with hands-on activities
- Make your library look more like a classroom
- Review library skills
- Review classroom skills
- Promote reading
- Create student work to display in the library
- Decrease off-task behaviors by bored students
- Allow you more time to focus on students who need help finding a book
- Assess student learning
- Impress administrators with a room full of purposeful, educational activity
- Make standards-based learning more visible
- Provide differentiated learning
- Reach different learning styles and multiple intelligences
- Provide peer book reviews