

Centers vs. Stations

are distinct work in concert with each other

Centers - a classroom area that contains a collection of activities or materials designed to teach, reinforce, or extend a particular skill or concept. Centers can be interest centers designed to motivate students' exploration of topics they are interested in or learning centers **Interest centers:**

- * focus on important learning goals
- *use materials addressing a wide range of levels, profiles and interests
- * activities that vary from simple to complex, concrete to abstract, structured to open ended
- *provide clear directions
- *includes instructions for what to do if needs help
- *uses a record keeping system to monitor what students do and quality level
- *includes a plan for ongoing assessment of growth in tasks

Learning centers:

- *materials usually teacher constructed
- *materials and tasks focus on mastery or extension of specific understandings or skills
- *materials and tasks are more exploratory than other assignments
- *differentiated content, process or product

Stations

- * different spots in room - students work simultaneously
- *teachers can ask students to move to particular parts of room
- *conducive to flexible groupings
- *not all students need to spend the same amt. of time at each station
- *assignments of students can vary day to day based on who rotates there
- *teacher can set up parameters but student can also choose.