

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.