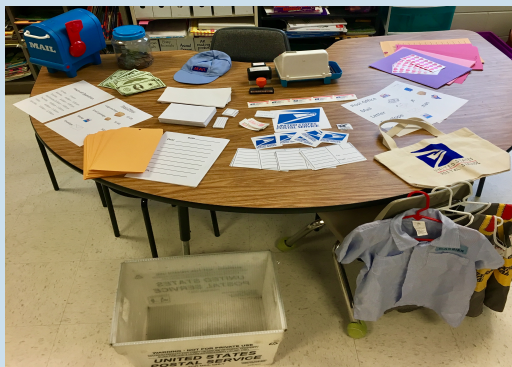


# Post Office Play Center

## Materials:

- Mailbox
- Cash register
- Play Money (bills and coins)
- Price List
- Hours of Operation
- Mailman shirts
- Mail bag
- Mail Hat
- Envelops (manila, long, and square)
- Mail related words sheet
- Pencils
- Markers
- Letter Format Papers
- Post Cards
- Stamps
- Ink stamps (Priority mail, fragile)
- Priority Mail Stickers
- Red, Pink, and Purple construction paper
- Valentine Heart stickers
- United States Postal Service mail crate



## How to create the play center:

1. Collect props listed in the materials section. The local post office has many of these supplies.
2. Create letter formats, post cards, stamps, and hours of operation in Microsoft Word. Cut out stamps and post cards beforehand.
3. Find a spot in the room with a table and space to play.
4. Lay the materials out for students to see and access.
5. Tell students only four people in the center at a time.
6. Allow each rotation 15 – 20 minutes of play time to give all students a chance to play if they desire. This worked well on Friday afternoon during our Free Friday time.

## Standards:

SS1E1 Identify goods that people make and services that people provide for each other.

SS1G2 Identify and locate the student's city, county, state, nation (country), and continent on a simple map or a globe.

ELAGSE1L2: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing. a. Capitalize dates and names of people. b. Use end punctuation for sentences. c. Use commas in dates and to separate single words in a series.

## Academic Purpose:

The post office center teaches children about the postal service. This is a service that people provide for others. Children were provided with real-life materials and play materials to enhance learning. Children wrote addresses on envelopes to mail the letters. On the wall above the play center, their city, county, state, and nation were displayed to reference during the center. Children wrote letters using correct punctuation, capital letters, and correct spelling with the help of a sheet provided. They could also write the date on the line provided using commas.

## Developmental Benefits for 1<sup>st</sup> Graders

### Social/Emotional Development:

- Students are learning communication skills.
- Students are problem solving and communicating with other students in the center.
- Students learn to manage emotions through dramatic play.

### Cognitive Development:

- Children are practicing their writing skills using commas, punctuation, and correct spelling.
- Children use play to practice skills they already know and develop understanding about mail services.

### Physical Development:

- Students use fine motor skills while they write letters, work the cash register, and count money.
- Stuffing envelopes helps with hand-eye coordination and dexterity.
- Students develop gross motor skills through walking, carrying packages, and bending over to pick up packages.

