



# Common Core Ready!

## Tips for Getting Organized for Common Core Instruction

Moving to a new set of standards can be a daunting task for today's busy teacher, so every little trick of the trade can help make the transition easier. Try the helpful hints below to learn how to quickly set up Common Core centers, help students learn to read the more complex texts required by these standards, and more!



Learning centers are a great way to help your students build new Common Core skills. To **organize your Common Core center activities** in a snap—even if you think you don't have space in your classroom for centers—try the Pacon® 70% Recycled Mailbox Storage Unit (Item #609236) from Office Depot®. Less than a yard wide, the unit fits easily on a tabletop. Label each of the unit's 15 slots with a different area of the Common Core standards for your grade level. Then fill the slots with practice pages, flash cards, games, activity cards, and other materials that students can complete during center or free time.



Vocabulary acquisition is an important skill covered in the Common Core standards. To **review new vocabulary words**, try using KleenSlate® Deluxe Dry-Erase Response Paddles (Item #795193) from Office Depot®. Packaged in a set of ten, these paddles are perfect for working with small groups of students. Display a list of words that students have recently discussed from their reading. Next, call out a definition. Each student chooses the matching word from the list and writes it on his paddle. When everyone has finished writing, have students reveal their paddles so you can check for accuracy. Continue until you've reviewed all the words on the list.



Starting with Grade 3, students in Common Core classrooms will be challenged to **conduct short research projects**. To help students organize their notes, there's no better tool than Oxford® Color-Coded Index Cards in Assorted Colors (Item #279688). Students can easily use the different colors on the cards' top edges to instantly categorize their information. Have each student store his notecards in an Office Depot® Brand Poly Index Box (Item #757404) labeled with his name.



**Be ready for Common Core reading lessons** by stocking up on Post-it® Flags (Item #369571) from Office Depot®. Common Core standards require that students ask and answer questions about a text, referring to the text as the basis for the answers. As students read, have them use the flags to mark portions of the text that answer their questions about important details or unknown words.