

Finding Solutions: Display Boards

So many teachers have shared with me lately that their schools (usually it's the new schools) won't allow them to put anything on the walls. The walls in classrooms help us create an atmosphere conducive to teaching and learning—far beyond just ornamental value. We know that administrators must have their reasons for keeping the walls sacred, but we're still puzzled. Anyway...

Jessie White, a teacher at Clear Creek Elementary in Hendersonville, NC, wrote to tell me about a clever solution to this problem. She attributes the original idea at her school to fifth grade teacher Carolyn Henderson, but then Jessie and the other teachers took Carolyn's idea and ran with it.

You'll see inexpensive display boards, the tri-fold kind purchased for science experiments, used for a number of instructional purposes in their Four-Blocks rooms. Here are some of the ways they're using the boards:

- for cluster charts that house vocabulary words for Guided Reading and for content words.
- for seasonal words to support students. (These can be changed easily each month!)
- for the Editor's Checklist to support the Writing Block.
- To display Word Wall words (Notice in the picture, however, that they've attached their Word Wall backboard, which is laminated poster board, with thumbtacks to two one inch corkboard strips.)
- For unit displays



Jessie reports, "They are attractive and sit up on book shelves. They not only add color, but we think we will really like the way that we will be able to move them to the front when we're focusing on that particular information. And, the best thing is...we can fold them and put into the closet and next year we just have to get them out and put them up. Done in one step!!!"