

# Tape-A-Story

## **Learning Objective:**

Reading with expression and fluency

## **Materials:**

- Books
- Tape Recorder
- Blank Tapes
- Optional Recording Form

## **Presentation and Storage:**

This is a very simple center to set up. All you need are books, a child-friendly tape recorder, and one blank tape. You could make this center more involved by including a tape in each student's literacy portfolio and having a cross-age tutor or volunteer run the center. You may find, however, that the high maintenance takes the power away from children and strips away much of the learning. It seems that the more complicated the center, the more dependent students become. Shifting the emphasis from product to process often yields much richer learning.

## **Process:**

Students choose a book, practice reading it at least once, and then record themselves reading it, adding appropriate sound effects if desired. Students may re-record the story as many times as necessary to produce a fluid, expressive recording.

## **Helpful Hints:**

Add colored stickers to the buttons on the tape recorder – a red sticker on the stop button, green stickers on the record button and play buttons, and a white sticker with an arrow on the rewind button. This helps less independent readers use the tape recorder. If you wish, include recording forms at the center. You may find, though, that the recording form requires extra management.

