

Tips for Arranging Your Space!

The way a classroom or childcare space is designed and laid out can have a huge impact on children's learning and behavior. Believe it or not, this can also impact a teacher's ability to perform their duties effectively as well. An effective environment supports children's interaction with the classroom space, materials, and the people within it.



- Create distinct visual boundaries, and make it clear to children where learning areas stop and start. Define areas with shelving units, equipment with backs, area rugs, etc.
- Arrange your room to eliminate runways. Long, straight isles and paths encourage running.
- The Art Area and sand/water play should be located on tile and by sinks if possible, for easy cleanup.
- Group similar things together. Display materials so that they can be seen in labeled bins, baskets, and boxes.
- Avoid having any “blind spots” or areas where children cannot be seen.
- Separate quiet and loud areas so that children can respect each other's play experiences.
- Create a soft, quiet area where a child can choose to be alone.
- Have any needed supplies and materials close and accessible to the children (smocks, paper towels, paintbrushes, garbage can, etc) to encourage independence.
- Areas should indicate the logical use of the materials. For example, if the tables are located right by the manipulative shelf, children are given the cue to take those toys to the table.

