



Resources to Help You Create Spaces Where Readers Will Thrive

Checklist for Creating Flexible Workspaces

Goal	Yes/No	Comments
The configuration of my desks or tables clearly communicates that I value interaction and collaboration.		
The space is designed to support many different types of interaction across the day, rather than primarily teacher-led whole-group instruction.		
The whole-group gathering space can be used for small groups and partnerships at other times of day.		
I've created spaces that will work well for teacher-led instruction of two to six students at a time.		
I've created a variety of options for students to comfortably work together in small groups and partnerships across the classroom.		
I've created a variety of options for students to work by themselves away from distractions.		
My schedule and instructional choices provide lots of opportunity for students to move about the room.		
Students are empowered to make workspace choices that feel right to them and maximize engagement.		
During the course of the day, spaces in my classroom are used in many different ways and by different groups of students.		
I have taught my students to be respectful of all workspaces in our classroom.		
I'm thinking of my room arrangement as a work in progress. If my ideas change, I won't be scared to adjust the environment.		

Checklist for Creating a Quality Classroom Gathering Space

Desired Characteristic	Reflection
I have easy access to the teaching materials I'll need.	
There is an easel with a shelf for supplies or a workable alternative.	
I have a comfortable place to sit.	
The space is big enough to accommodate everyone, ideally in a circle.	
The space is located in an area with limited distractions and does not face the door.	
There is a basket for collecting books we've shared through read-alouds.	
The space is inviting and free of clutter.	
There is a touch of charm (rug, lamp, plant, artwork, etc.).	

Anchor Chart Reflection Tool

Effective Practice	Yes/No	Reflection
I used the chart to anchor truly important teaching.		
I created the chart with my class present.		
I was able to let go of the need for perfection.		
I kept it simple. I used short sentences, phrases, and/or bullets.		
I focused on what would be most meaningful for my students in the future.		
I gave the chart a title that increased its power as a reference tool.		
I included some non-linguistic elements (simple drawings, stick figures, icons, etc.).		
I created the chart on paper, so it would be easily available to “anchor” the learning into the future.		
I posted the chart where it would be most useful to my students.		
I referred to the chart in future teaching.		
I added to/or modified the chart to keep it fresh and interesting.		
I removed the chart when it was no longer needed to avoid visual clutter and help kids focus on the most relevant learning.		

Possible Reading Spots

Independent Reading Spots to Consider	Yes. I'd be comfortable having this as a choice.	Hmm. I'd be willing to try it out and see.	Nope. This isn't a good match for my situation right now.
In a quiet corner			
Under tables			
In soft seating			
In lawn chairs			
In beanbag chairs			
In rocking chairs			
On the floor using a chair as a table			
At the gathering spot			
In the classroom library			
On a carpet square			
On a chair cushion against the wall			
On a beach towel or blanket from home			
At a table with a three-fold cardboard privacy divider			
Inside a tent, appliance box, or playhouse (works well for kids who need to be distraction-free)			
Other ideas:			