

Setting Up Your Room

Things to Consider

First, take some time to think about your priorities. Focus on one priority at a time. Decide what your classroom is all about.

What is your instructional focus?

- Will I emphasize reading and books?

If so, your classroom library and reading area will become the key part of your classroom.

- Is hands-on science my special focus?

You will need to provide a science supply area as well as working space.

- What technology will be a part of my everyday routine?

If your use of technology includes a computer center, consider electrical outlets and wiring as you develop your floor plan.

Where will instruction take place?

- Where will students be for most direct instruction? At their desks? On the floor? In small groups?

If your students will be on the floor for instruction, arrange your room so that a large open space is available.

- Will classroom centers be a part of the instructional plan?

- Will my students keep logbooks or portfolios?

If so, plan an accessible storage space for them.

Will there be other adults in the classroom?

- Are parents often included in classroom activities?

If so, provide a spot for their coats and belongings, a board for quick instructions or information, and an area for them to work with individual students.

- Will you have a student teacher? Intern? Instructional aide?

Provide a place for their belongings. They need to feel at home. This is their classroom too.

What is the theme of the upcoming year?

- What is the school theme for the year?
- Is there a grade-level theme?
- Do I want to have a classroom theme?
- How will my classroom reflect these themes?



Helpful Hint

As you select themes, be sure to include them on your bulletin boards and in communications with parents.