

ENVIRONMENT

Accommodate the learning styles and the needs of diverse learners to achieve a well-managed classroom.

- Create a well-organized, visually stimulating room arrangement that maximizes space
- Arrange the classroom furniture to allow the teacher quick access to each student
- Use furniture as partitions to define areas of the room
- Set up informal seating areas
- Teach and practice housekeeping procedures (e.g., class and homework procedures, disposal of trash, restroom protocol, sharpening pencils, etc.)
- Allow students who are kinesthetic learners freedom to work while moving about, standing up, sitting on a soft cushion, or sitting on a bean bag
- Reduce environmental noise to keep learning at an optimal level
- Slit tennis balls and place on chair feet to reduce noise when room has no carpet
- Allow earphones or earplugs to minimize auditory distracters
- Have recorded material and music available in a listening station
- Provide both soft light and bright light areas in the classroom
- Set room temperature at a comfortable level allowing students to wear outerwear as needed
- Remove unnecessary visual distracters
- Use visual or auditory prompting tools to signal change in activities or to designate length of time on task (e.g., Time Timer, bells)
- Display rules and procedures incorporating visual images
- Clearly state and practice procedures for classroom movement
- Incorporate move-around breaks and exercises in the schedule following extended seat activities
- Play a variety of music to calm, to relax, to stimulate thinking, or to signal a change in activity
- Seat active students away from high-traffic areas, close to direct instruction, and in proximity to students who work on task
- Have privacy dividers or study carrels available
- Be responsive to physical needs (e.g., food, water, restroom, exercise)
- Provide a *Suggestion Box* where students offer input on how to make the class more interesting and meaningful