



Early Childhood Classrooms: Tips for Arranging Your Space!

- Create clear visual boundaries, making it apparent to children where learning areas stop and start. Define child care areas with shelving units, equipment with backs, area rugs, etc.
- Each learning area should be separate, and its own entity and area.
- Strategically 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 clean up.



- Provide visual order, with a sense of logic. 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.



- Pull equipment away from the walls. Utilize your equipment to create "nooks" and to visually invite people to come all the way into the classroom.
- 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 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.

