

Your Current Learning Space

Use this handout and the discussion in chapter 7 to create a drawing of your current learning space and to identify its critical components.

Section I. The Physical Setting and Use of Space

1. Draw your current learning space on a blank piece of paper.
2. What color are the walls?
3. What type of lighting is in the space?
4. What is the flooring throughout the space?
5. Where are the closets and cabinets?
6. How does your entryway appear? Is it welcoming?
7. Add the following to your drawing:

Bookcases	Chairs	Water table	Other
Tables	Easels	Sand table	
Desks	Lamps	Kitchen set	
File cabinets	Toy shelves	Gross motor equipment	

8. What does the room layout look like?
9. Do you have spatial variety in your learning space? How is it created?
10. Do you have defined work areas? Label them on your drawing.
11. Are there clear pathways in your classroom? Indicate them on the drawing.
12. Which areas are the most heavily used? Which the least? Indicate high- and low-density areas on your map.

Section II. Material Type, Selection, and Storage

1. What materials do you have in your current learning space (books, blocks, toys, maps, globes, art supplies, and other standard teaching materials)? Create a list.
2. Where are these materials located? Indicate them on your drawing.

Section III. Sensory and Natural Elements

1. What do you have in your current learning space that impacts the senses: temperature, sounds, smells, visual display?
2. Do you have elements of nature (plants, class pets, and so on) in your classroom? List them.

Section IV. The Social Environment

1. How interactive are the children in your class with one another?
2. What types of interactions does the space support?
3. How many children are in your current learning space?
4. How many students can occupy defined work areas at one given time?