



THE NATIONAL CENTER ON

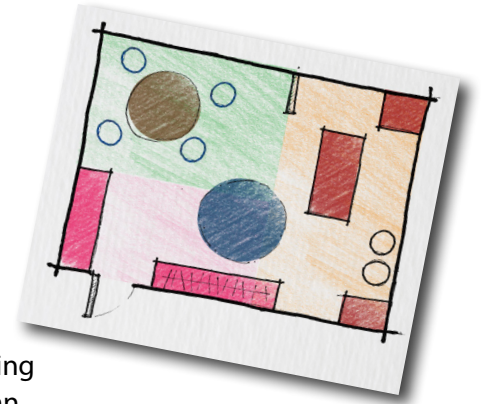
Quality Teaching
and Learning

LEARNING ACTIVITY DESIGNING ENVIRONMENTS

ASSESSING YOUR PHYSICAL SPACES AND STRATEGIZING CHANGES

Activity overview: Participants examine the classroom's physical spaces to assess strengths and limitations.

Directions: Draw the floor plan/layout of your classroom below. Then discuss with your teaching team the questions in the first column. Based on your discussion, what changes can be made to increase children's participation in learning activities? Brainstorm a list of possible changes and record results in the last column.



Draw a layout of your classroom in this space. Use your layout to answer the questions on the following page.

Category/Question	Yes/No	Comments/Ideas/Changes
Space/Boundaries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the centers clearly defined with furniture, rugs, or shelves? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there enough space for all children to easily move about the room? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In each defined area, is there adequate space for the number of children using it? 		
Proximity/Distance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the quiet and noisy areas in proximity or separated? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are centers located near things that children need to complete projects (art center near sink, puzzle or game shelves within reach of tables, etc.)? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are teachers able to view children in all centers? 		
Home/Culture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What home-like features are included in the classroom? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is(are) the culture(s) of the local community reflected in the classroom? 		
Flexibility/Permanence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the space accommodate gross motor activity? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What aspects of the physical space cannot be changed (cost or structural issues) and are challenging to overcome (e.g., limited access to natural light, cumbersome cubbies, asphalt playground, etc.)? 		
Engaged in Learning/ Challenging Behavior: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there areas of the classroom where challenging behaviors are more likely to occur? • Are there areas where typically children are positively engaged in classroom activities? 		