



CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT



Setting the classroom environment for success is a preventative strategy that you can use to help you and your students be their best.

ORGANIZED CLASSROOM

An organized classroom can make the classroom feel safe and predictable.

Things to consider:

- **Is the classroom uncluttered?**
- **Can students easily access instructional materials?**
- **Can you access your necessary materials easily?**

CLASSROOM FURNITURE

Classroom furniture that is age/size appropriate for the students helps create a welcoming environment.

Things to consider:

- **Are the chairs, desks, and tables the correct size for your students?**
- **Is there enough space for the student to work and have materials accessible? (NOTE: this spacing can be different for each student)**

SAFETY FIRST

Make sure all dangerous items are unable to be accessed by students.

Things to consider:

- **Where do I keep my hot coffee/tea?**
- **Where are items like scissors and staplers kept so that they can be used often, but under supervision?**
- **Where do you keep push pins, adult scissors, cleaning supplies, small items that could be swallowed?**

CLEAR FLOOR & PATHWAYS

Having clear floors makes the room safer because everyone can move around the room to supervise or exit when needed.

Things to consider:

- **Can I walk near all the student's desks?**
- **Can all the students get to the door in an emergency, crisis, or room clear event?**
- **Where do I want students to put extra belongings that might get in the way of pathways?**

CLEAR VIEW

Make sure you can see all students at all times. Look at the room from different places to make sure that all students can be supervised.

Things to consider:

- If I teach from "X" place in the room, can I supervise ALL students?
- If a student goes to a break/calm/cool down space in the room, can I still supervise them as I engage the rest of the class?
- Are there any blind spots in the room? How do I get rid of them?

SCHEDULE

Make a visible schedule that staff and students can use to guide their day. It helps make the day predictable.

Things to consider:

- Can all students and staff see it?
- Can everyone follow it?
- Is it flexible enough to adjust for schedule changes?

Please see the PaTTAN Emotional Support Handout on Schedules for more details

DO I HAVE ALL THE ELEMENTS FOR A GREAT CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT?

QUESTIONS

- Is the classroom environment neat and organized?
- Is the classroom seating and furniture appropriate for the student's age/size?
- Are all dangerous items inaccessible to the students?
- Are the classroom floors clear of impediments, "student stuff," so that staff & students can move around to all areas of the room?
- Is there a clear pathway for staff and students to access the exit in case of a crisis, emergency, or room clear event?
- Do the staff have a clear view of all students?
- Does the layout allow staff to monitor all student behavior?
- Is there a schedule visible that guides students and staff?

YES

NO

