

Lesson Two – Guidelines and Best Practices for Classroom Design

Learn: Explore Guidelines and Best Practices for Classroom Design

45 minutes

Purpose:

This activity will help participants to explore more deeply the practices that make up the “best practices.” Knowing these practices will teach participants to understand the complexities involved in designing classrooms for infants, toddlers, and preschool children.

Materials:

- Computers
- *Making Room for Play: The Preschool Room Plan*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xCCBIvgWQ0>
- *Indicators of a Quality Early Learning Environment*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fm7hIwLXuTU>
- *Classroom Design with Learning Centers* handout
- *Best Practices for Classroom Design* slide presentation

Facilitation Steps:

1. Participants will be designing infant, toddler and/or preschool classrooms at the end of this course, so instructors will want their learning to be relevant to them.

Participants will be gathering information on learning centers. Decide whether you’d like participants to complete a handout for each of the three age groups (infant, toddler, and preschool) or divide participants into groups with each group focusing on design best practices for one age group.

2. Give the handout *Classroom Design with Learning Centers* to each participant. Encourage participants to take notes as they

research learning centers online. Suggest keyword searches such as “learning centers.”

3. Have participants write the age group on their *Learning Centers* form. Participants should identify as many different learning centers as they can, but do not need to worry about the other sections of the handout yet. That information will be completed in the next lesson. Participants are welcome to fill in sections if they feel they have adequate information. The learning centers chosen should be appropriate for the developmental age of the children.
4. Show the *Best Practices for Classroom Design* slide presentation (slides 2-8) to summarize the key points and take time to gather feedback and thoughts regarding their research. Use the slide presentation as a basis for discussion on these general best practices.
5. All participants should watch the *Making Space* and *Indicators of Quality* videos as they learn more about best practices in classroom design and all that needs to be considered in this process. Access the two videos as follows:
 - *Making Space for Play: The Preschool Room Plan*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xCCBIvgWQ0>
 - *Indicators of a Quality Early Learning Environment*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fm7hIwLXuTU>Instead of these videos, you can share the slide presentation (slides 8-27) to review these best practices for classroom design.
6. Participants will complete their handouts in Lesson 3, so remind them to keep it accessible.

Name: _____ Class: _____ Age Group: _____

Classroom Design with Learning Centers

Directions: Use the grid to record information that you will use to create your classroom design. Review slide 6 for some possible learning centers. There may be more boxes than you need for learning centers, depending on the age of the children in the classroom.

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