

TIPS FOR CREATING THE PERFECT CLASSROOM



- ┌ FIND CREATIVE WAYS TO SEPARATE SPACES THAT ARE
- └ USED FOR DIFFERENT FUNCTIONS.

You can do this by using bookshelves, rugs, colored tape on the floor, or other furniture pieces to create boundaries representing different areas. Designated boundaries will help children know when they are in a space dedicated to reading, studying, or set aside for play. If your classroom space is used for more than one purpose, simply create visual signs or cues to show what specific purpose the designated area is being used for at that time. For example, you may create a poster with a picture of children playing instruments accompanied by the words "Music Time" and post that sign on a table to indicate music time is about to take place.

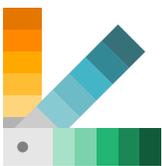
In our classrooms, the teachers use color-coded bookshelves to separate areas of the classroom designated for specific activities. Of course, everything is also color-coded for our little ones.



PUT AWAY COMMON CLASSROOM MATERIALS (E.G., SCHOOL SUPPLIES, GAMES) ON EASILY ACCESSIBLE SHELVES OR IN CLEAR, SEE-THROUGH STORAGE CONTAINERS.

You can create labels for materials using pictures that represent the items, or 3D textures and Braille for the visually impaired little ones. Use this system to help you train your students the correct steps you want them to take when wanting to access classroom items. This also proves to be helpful if you have a little one in the classroom who has trouble communicating. The pictures and textures can create a new, open line of communication between you and the student. Classrooms at the LLH each house shelves that are easily accessible by our students, with items they use every day.

Note: It's important for anything that could potentially endanger or distract a child without proper supervision is placed out of reach of children.



PICK ONE OR TWO COLORS TO BE THE FOCAL POINT IN YOUR CLASSROOM.

Colors can elicit and alter behavioral patterns in the classroom. Studies by the University of Washington show colors affect neuropathways in the brain and create a biochemical response. Because some people do not have every neuropathway necessary for learning, color consistency is important in helping those individuals relate to objects during early childhood development. Using one or two colors consistently stimulates high levels of interest and encourages visualization, imagery, and imagination, which helps children learn more effectively. Each of our classrooms are themed by color to create consistency for our students.