

# SETTING UP YOUR CLASSROOM FOR SUCCESS

Teaching with CLASS® Podcast  
Season 3 Episode 7  
Guest: Alisha Saunders-Wilson



Setting up a classroom for a new school year can be both exciting and overwhelming. This resource will help you create a classroom environment that promotes autonomy, positive behavior, emotional support, and instructional engagement. Learn from Alisha Saunders-Wilson, a Teachstone CLASS® Specialist, who shares her expertise on classroom organization, behavior management, material rotation, and setting clear expectations.

## Classroom Organization and Behavior Management

### + Key Considerations:

#### 1. Flow and Space Utilization:

- Ensure children have enough space to work without being interrupted.
- Place quieter areas like reading spaces away from louder areas like block centers.
- Avoid creating "runways" that encourage running and disruptive behavior.

#### 2. Material Accessibility:

- Set up materials so children can access them independently, promoting autonomy.
- Ensure you can monitor all areas of the classroom from different vantage points.

#### 3. Expectations and Behavior Management:

- Set clear expectations for behavior from the start.
- Consider the developmental levels of your new group of children.
- Use the classroom setup to reinforce behavior expectations (e.g., designated spaces for specific activities).

## Emotional Support

### + Promoting Positive Climate and Teacher Sensitivity:

#### 1. Creating a Welcoming Environment:

- Make the classroom feel comfortable and inviting with child-friendly decorations and materials at their eye level.
- Encourage ownership by allowing children to contribute to the classroom setup.

#### 2. Fostering Autonomy:

- Allow children to access materials and participate in activities independently.
- Reduce the need for teacher intervention by organizing materials so children can manage their tasks themselves.

#### 3. Minimizing Negative Climate:

- Identify and address the root causes of conflicts (e.g., limited materials).
- Set and model expectations for communication and interaction.

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## Instructional Support

### + Enhancing Engagement and Learning:

#### 1. Teacher Engagement:

- Be present and engaged with children during activities.
- Use open-ended questions to stimulate thinking and problem-solving.

#### 2. Rotating Materials:

- Introduce new materials periodically to maintain interest and engagement.
- Swap out materials that children are no longer engaging with to renew interest.

#### 3. Supporting Language Development and Problem-Solving:

- Use question starters to encourage deeper thinking and exploration.
- Engage in brainstorming sessions with children to explore new ideas and possibilities.



## Tips for Resource-Limited Classrooms

#### 1. Creativity with Materials:

- Utilize donated items, recyclables, and yard sale finds creatively.
- Focus on what can be done with available materials rather than the lack of new ones.

#### 2. Rotating and Recycling:

- Rotate materials to keep the classroom environment dynamic and interesting.
- Reintroduce previously used materials in new contexts to spark renewed interest.

## Final Thoughts

Setting up a classroom effectively involves thoughtful organization, clear expectations, emotional support, and engaging instructional strategies. By creating an environment that promotes autonomy, positive climate, and engagement, you set the stage for a successful school year.

## Encouragement for Teachers

Remember, your dedication and creativity are invaluable. Each new school year brings fresh opportunities to impact young lives positively. Keep fostering those meaningful connections and supporting your students' growth and development. Thank you for your hard work and commitment!