

## Establishing an Environment for Learning

### **BELIEFS** Whose classroom is this?

What are my beliefs about the learning environment? How will these be reflected in the classroom? How will my beliefs be presented to students, parents, and administrators?

How do I want people to feel when they walk in the classroom? How do I want to feel?

What are the most important areas in the room? Why are they important?

What areas do I like that may not be the most important? Why do I like them?

Will students be part of designing, organizing and/or maintaining the room? Why? What do they believe? Will my desk be used as a work station for students?

Will students have assigned seats?

Are there materials that students need full access to? What would they be? Why?

### **SPACE** How much space do I need in the classroom? Will I use 1/4 of the room or 1/24 (as much as each child is given). Where will students work individually, in small groups, and in whole group?

How will the room be arranged to create spaces for quiet working? What about partner and group work?

Will the entire classroom library be located in one area of the room or will it be spread throughout the classroom? What are the advantages for both?

Will my space be defined with a desk, table, or counter?

Will students have desks, tables, or a combination of the two?

Does everyone need a space to call their own? Why?

How many computers are available? Where are outlets?

What alternative seats will be available for students?

### **MATERIALS** Where will individual materials be stored? Where will group materials be stored?

How will the materials for all subjects be displayed and stored?

Where will student work be displayed? Why is this important?

Will I use student-generated charts or purchased charts? What do I believe about this?

Where will the stapler be stored? Why?