



## Class Layout & Implications

The classroom I decided to examine is the first grade classroom I am currently working in for Field Study B. The things that are first noticeable about this classroom is the assortment of colors. The classroom walls are very aesthetically pleasing, decorated with student work. The room offers low ceilings, and tables and desks all suited for young children. The class also has a large closet area for the instructor to store away many materials, and a large kitchen area for the teacher's private use, as well as a place for the students to have access to a drinking fountain. A majority of the student work displayed in the classroom is presented at or below eye level for an adult to ensure accessibility for the children; any and all charts (from disciplinary to class duties) are within reach of the students. All materials are shelved on one large rack at the back of the classroom, the students understand they are not to sharpen their own pencils, but use the "pencil box" in the kitchen where they can trade their writing utensil.

The children's desks move from place to place several times during the semester, our master teacher explained that her students are very accustomed to her tendency to change their positioning often to reduce class management issues. While the desks change positions often, the rest of the classroom layout remains consistent throughout the academic year. As you enter the classroom you have the front of the class (where the white board is set) to your right, and the children's desks to your left. The instructor has her laptop and projector set-up facing the children. This allows the teacher to do power

point presentations for the children to see displayed on the white board, while she can look in the opposite direction towards the students. I had the opportunity to take advantage of this set-up during my own presentations and I found it to be very useful. Our instructor utilizes a carpet area (indicated with a circle on the illustration) at the back of the classroom. The students understand that when they are sitting in this area they are intended to be quiet and patient as the teacher delivers instruction. The instructor has a u-table set-up at the opposite side of the back of the classroom which she utilizes for small group instruction. The U-table is set behind the children's desk to minimize distractions while student's work on extra work or assessments. This set-up is ideal for a one on one assessment such as running records.

Our classroom was ideal to work in for our field study as it offered many opportunities to present our curriculum in different ways. One day our instruction might utilize the white board having the students seated at their desk, the next day we may use the u-table for small group instruction or a read aloud, or may use the large carpet area for the students to pair share and present their own work. I hope to replicate this classroom layout for my own room in the future, I felt it offered the students freedom, while ensuring they understand personal boundaries and kept class management issues to a minimum.