

Plan for Managing the Learning Environment

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1. Classroom Culture and Climate:

Write a reflection on what you think constitutes a positive classroom climate. List 3-5 strategies that you would like to try in your own classroom. The strategies should rely on professional learning communities and address the physical, social, and emotional needs of the whole child.



[Kids walking in school hallway](#)

Classroom Culture and Climate

A positive classroom climate is one where students feel safe, respected, motivated, and engaged in their learning.

It is also one where teachers have high expectations, provide constructive feedback, and foster collaboration among students and colleagues.

A positive classroom climate encourages students to strive for higher achievements, expand their well-being, and develop their social-emotional skills.

Strategies for Positive Classroom Climate

Some strategies that I would like to try in my own classroom are:

- Build positive relationships with students and colleagues by showing interest, empathy, and appreciation¹
- Arrange the physical environment to create a comfortable, inviting, and accessible space for learning
- Encourage collaboration among students and teachers by using cooperative learning, peer feedback, and professional learning communities²
- Use current curriculum and teaching methods that are relevant, engaging, and aligned with the standards and goals of the school³
- Be there for them by providing emotional support, guidance, and resources for students and colleagues who need help⁶

Strategies or Modifications for Virtual Learning Environment

1. **Use video conferencing creatively:** ⁴

Videoconferencing can be used for more than just standard lecture sessions. Teachers can use it to connect with other students in nearby communities, other states, or even other countries to learn about their unique perspectives.

Sharing a lesson or project with another school teaches students about the world's interconnectivity—while improving interpersonal communication and building cross-cultural understanding

2. **Offer asynchronous online learning:**

Asynchronous online learning environments are effective for students with time constraints or busy schedules. Login and learn when you are able to. Flexible learning schedule.

Students are provided with content and assignments and are given a time frame to complete coursework and exams. Interaction usually takes place through discussion boards, blogs, and wikis. As a result, there is no class meeting time. This works well with older students or adult learners.

3. **Develop strong attitudes towards learning:**

Developing strong attitudes towards learning can help students overcome some of the potential challenges posed by online learning.

Instructors can establish their presence and engage intentionally with students to help them succeed.

Letting students know expectations and course policies, considering opportunities for extensions and alternative assessments, and providing opportunities for students to interact with each other through discussion forums, blogs, or other collaboration tools can also help increase engagement

4. **Rethink policies and provide guidance:**

Rethinking policies and providing guidance on removing obstacles and support for better school designs, physical facilities or flattening the org structure, can

help transform learning environments.

This can include providing resources and support for students and families, involving families and community partners in the classroom. Creating a classroom culture that values and celebrates diversity is the future.

5. Provide online educational resources:⁵

There are many online educational resources available that can be helpful in supporting education continuity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

These resources can include online textbooks, videos, simulations, and interactive activities. [See this list of resources.](#)



[Students in classroom](#)

2. An Information Intensive Environment:

Creating an information intensive environment, including a variety of print and digital texts that are developmentally appropriate for your students can enhance student vocabulary and contribute to a positive classroom climate. In this section, outline the steps that you will take to create a developmentally appropriate information intensive environment. Then, write a brief reflection on how your information intensive environment will impact your classroom climate.

Information Intensive Environment

Creating a developmentally appropriate information-intensive environment for an elementary school class requires careful planning and consideration of students' needs and interests. Here's an outline of the steps I would take:^{a b c d}

Step 1: Assess Students' Interests and Learning Needs

- Conduct a survey or informal discussions to understand students' interests, hobbies, and preferred learning styles (use online polls, quizzes)
- Identify any specific learning needs or challenges that may require targeted support.

Step 2: Curate Diverse and Age-Appropriate Information Resources

- Gather a wide range of information resources, including books, articles, videos, websites, and interactive tools, that align with students' interests and are suitable for their age group.
- Ensure that the information resources cover various topics and represent diverse perspectives to promote inclusivity and well-rounded learning.

Step 3: Create a Virtual Learning Hub or Resource Center

- Develop a virtual learning hub or resource center where students can access the curated information resources easily.
- Organize the resources by topics or subjects to facilitate navigation and retrieval of information.

Step 4: Introduce Information Literacy Skills

- Design lessons or activities that teach students information literacy skills, such as evaluating the credibility of sources, distinguishing between fact and opinion, and citing their references properly.
- Provide guidance on effective search strategies to help students find relevant and reliable information.

Step 5: Incorporate UDL Content

- Integrate a variety of content formats, such as text, images, videos, and audio recordings, to cater to different learning preferences and make the learning experience engaging.
- Use interactive elements, such as quizzes, simulations, and virtual field trips, to immerse students in the learning process.

Step 6: Promote Collaborative Learning

- Encourage collaborative learning experiences by assigning group projects or discussions that involve exploring and sharing information with peers.
- Use digital collaboration tools to facilitate communication and cooperation among students.

Step 7: Provide Choice and Flexibility

- Offer students choices in the types of information resources they want to explore, allowing them to pursue topics of personal interest.
- Provide flexibility in the pace and timing of accessing information, accommodating different learning speeds and schedules.

Step 8: Monitor Progress and Adjust

- Regularly assess students' progress and understanding through formative assessments and observations.
- Use feedback to make adjustments to the information resources and teaching strategies to better meet students' needs.

Step 9: Foster a Culture of Curiosity and Inquiry

- Cultivate a culture of curiosity and inquiry by encouraging students to ask questions, seek answers, and explore beyond the provided information.
- Celebrate and acknowledge students' curiosity-driven discoveries and learning achievements.

How will your information intensive environment impact your classroom climate?

I think that my information intensive environment will impact my classroom climate in a positive way by increasing student motivation, fostering a culture of self-driven inquiry, promoting collaboration, supporting diversity, and enhancing self-learning. These impacts are based on some of the strategies and research I found from my web search.

By providing relevant and engaging topics and resources for learning

I can increase student motivation and interest in the content. By encouraging students to ask questions, explore topics, and share their findings, I can foster a culture of inquiry and curiosity in the classroom.

By using different modes of communication and feedback

I can promote collaboration and communication among students and teachers. By providing accessible, diverse, and appropriate resources and materials for different learners, I can support diversity and inclusion in the classroom.

By supporting students' self-regulation and scaffolding their learning process

I can enhance self-efficacy and metacognition in the students. These are some of the ways that my information intensive environment will impact my classroom climate.



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3. Classroom Norms and Behavior Expectations:

Classroom norms are the foundation of a safe, engaging, and student-centered learning environment. List 3-5 clear, concise, and positively framed norms and expectations that will guide the learning environment.



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a. **Universal and Simple:**

Focus on some themes or big ideas that might include respect and integrity. Do not include every possible rule or policy you might need; rather generate a few overarching norms that encompass many rules.

b. **Positive:**

Norms are positive statements about what students and teachers do in order to learn and collaborate effectively. Avoid negative norms (i.e. "Do not..." "No...").

c. **Collaborative:**

Involve your students in developing and discussing norms and expectations. This allows them to contribute and gives ownership of the class.

Classroom Norms and Behavior Expectations

1. Be Respectful:

- Listen attentively when others are speaking.
- Use kind and polite language when interacting with peers and teachers.
- Respect the ideas, opinions, and personal space of others.

2. Take Responsibility:

- Come to class prepared with all necessary materials and completed assignments.
- Be accountable for your actions and their impact on the learning community.
- Take ownership of your learning journey and seek help when needed.

3. Embrace Growth:

- Embrace challenges as opportunities to learn and grow.
- Celebrate mistakes as valuable learning experiences.
- Encourage and support each other's efforts to improve and succeed.

4. Practice Active Participation:

- Engage actively in class discussions and activities.
- Contribute positively to group work and collaborative projects.
- Ask questions and seek clarification to deepen understanding.

5. Foster an Inclusive Community:

- Celebrate and respect the diversity of backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives.
- Create a safe space where all students feel valued and included.
- Be open-minded and empathetic towards others' experiences and identities.

These classroom norms and expectations will help establish a positive and supportive learning environment where students feel safe, motivated, and encouraged to thrive academically and personally.^{a b c}

Strategies or Modifications for the Virtual Learning Environment

Here are 3-5 clear, concise, and positively framed universal norms and expectations that will guide the learning environment in a virtual classroom:

1. Be punctual:

Students should log in to the virtual classroom on time and be ready to participate in the class. This includes keeping the video on throughout the class time and audio muted when not speaking.

2. Be respectful:

Students should practice courteous and respectful communication with all members of the class. This includes using appropriate language, keeping eye contact, and using polite hand gestures, facial expressions, and body language.

3. Be responsible:

Students should take responsibility for their own learning and behavior. This includes completing assignments on time, being prepared for class, and following through on commitments.

4. Be collaborative:

Students should work collaboratively with their peers to achieve common goals. This includes sharing ideas, listening to others, and contributing to group discussions.

5. Be curious:

Students should approach learning with curiosity and a desire to learn. This includes asking questions, seeking out information, and exploring new ideas.

By establishing these norms and expectations, teachers can create a safe, engaging, and student-centered learning environment that promotes respect, responsibility, collaboration, curiosity, and punctuality among students in a virtual classroom.^{1 2 3}



Students group work

4. Routines and Procedures:

Clear and consistent routines and procedures assist teachers in managing their learning environment effectively. List out your top 3-5 routines and procedures that you would implement in your own classroom. Following a routine lets students know what to expect each day in class. While moving away from the routine periodically can be effective for special days, doing it often causes students to be unprepared. (Add more rows as needed to the table.) Include modifications that you would make for situations when students don't adhere to a particular routine or procedure.

Clear Routines and Procedures	
Situation	Steps (and Modifications, if any)
Morning Routine	1. Greeting: Welcome students as they enter the classroom with a friendly greeting.
	2. Attendance: Take attendance to ensure all students are present.
	3. Agenda: Display the daily agenda on the board, outlining the day's activities and objectives.
	4. Bell Ringer: Start the class with a bell ringer activity to engage students and set the tone for the day's learning.
	5. Review: Briefly review the previous day's lesson to reinforce learning and make connections.
Routines for the Online Classroom:	
Virtual Class Start-Up	1. Welcome Message: Start each virtual class session with a warm welcome message to create a positive atmosphere.

	<p>2. Attendance Check: Begin with a quick attendance check to ensure all students are present and engaged.</p>
	<p>3. Tech Check: Conduct a brief tech check to ensure students' audio and video settings are working correctly for smooth communication.</p>
	<p>4. Agenda Review: Display the daily agenda and learning objectives on the screen to provide an overview of the class plan.</p>
	<p>5. Icebreaker/Warm-up: Kickstart the class with an icebreaker or warm-up activity to encourage student participation and set a collaborative tone.</p>

5. Transitions:

Plan your transitions with a step-by-step process in the table below, and model with students within the first weeks of school. Review and practice these transitions with students after extended breaks, midyear, and anytime you add a new student to your class. Include specific instructions you would use with students with special needs and English language learners.

Transitions	
Situation	Steps (and Modifications, if any)
Transition Between Activities	<p>1. Clear Signal: Use a designated signal (e.g., chimes, hand claps) to indicate the end of one activity and the start of the next.</p>
	<p>2. Instructions: Clearly explain the next activity's expectations and objectives before dismissing students.</p>
	<p>3. Time Management: Set specific time limits for each activity, displaying a visible timer to keep students aware of remaining time.</p>
	<p>4. Clean Up: Instruct students to tidy up their materials and work areas before moving to the next activity.</p>
	<p>5. Attention Signal: Use a signal (e.g., raised hand) to get students' attention before transitioning, ensuring a smooth shift.</p>
Routines for the Online Classroom:	
Transition Between Activities	<p>1. Clear Signal: Use a designated signal (e.g., virtual hand raise, specific</p>

	phrase) to indicate the end of one activity and the start of the next.
	2. Transition Instructions: Clearly explain the upcoming activity's requirements and expectations before moving on.
	3. Time Management: Set specific time limits for each activity, and display a countdown timer on the screen to keep students aware of remaining time.
	4. Break Time: Incorporate short breaks during extended virtual sessions to give students a chance to recharge and refocus.
	5. Attention Getter: Use an attention-getting technique (e.g., countdown, virtual applause) to recapture students' focus and gather their attention.



[Kids running in corridor](#)

6. Responding to Traumatic Stress:

Create a data gathering exercise to understand students' backgrounds and identify if any of them have experienced traumatic stress. Tip: Previous teachers are sometimes a good source of information. Complete the chart below with possible strategies that you would use for specific types of trauma.

Response to Traumatic Stress	
Trauma Symptoms	Response Strategies ¹²³⁴⁵
Difficulty concentrating on schoolwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide a structured and predictable learning environment with clear routines and expectations. ● Break down tasks into smaller, manageable steps to support focus and attention. ● Offer flexible seating options or movement breaks to help students regulate their energy levels.
Chronic absenteeism and tardiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish a warm and welcoming classroom environment to encourage attendance. ● Develop a positive relationship with the student and their family to address any underlying issues that may contribute to absenteeism. ● Implement a system of incentives or rewards for consistent attendance.
Withdrawal from peers, teachers, or activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Foster a safe and supportive classroom climate that promotes positive relationships. ● Encourage peer support and collaboration to create a sense of belonging. ● Provide opportunities for students to engage in activities they enjoy and feel successful in.
Relationship challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Build positive relationships with trauma-affected students through empathy, active listening, and understanding. ● Collaborate with other professionals, such as social workers or counselors, to provide additional support and resources. ● Create a trauma-informed classroom environment that emphasizes safety, trust, and respect.
Negative thinking and low self-esteem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide supportive feedback and praise to reinforce positive behaviors and efforts. ● Teach strategies for managing negative thoughts, such as mindfulness or cognitive-behavioral techniques. ● Create opportunities for students to showcase their strengths and build a sense of competence.

7. Technology Tools:

Technology can improve the way you manage the learning environment by helping save instructional time, track trends in student behavior, create lines of communication with families, and even empower students to take leadership roles. Integrate some technology tools for managing the learning environment in a physical and online classroom into this planning document and explain how you plan to use each.



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Management Technology	
Technology	Rationale and Use
Transition apps	<p><u>Rationale:</u> As a teacher in a bustling classroom, I find a transition timer app like Traffic Light App to be an absolute game-changer. It brings a touch of structure and order to our daily routine in a fun and engaging way.</p> <p>The simplicity of setting it up, just like a traffic light, makes it incredibly user-friendly. By using this app, I can seamlessly guide my students through different activities, ensuring smooth transitions between tasks.</p> <p>The visual cues of red, amber, and green, along with the bell chime, not only keep things organized but also add an element of excitement to our classroom. It's like having a little helper that ensures everyone is on the same page, and it ultimately enhances the learning experience in a friendly and efficient manner.</p> <p><u>Use:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Traffic Light App:</u> A simple to use timer in the form of a traffic light. Set whether you want it to run red-amber-green or green-amber-red, set the times in minutes and seconds and then off it goes! A bell chimes as each light changes.
Noise-Canceling + Noise	<p><u>Rationale:</u> Our classrooms can sometimes resemble a buzzing beehive - all that constant noise. Then along came these amazing apps to our rescue.</p>

<p>Management apps</p>	<p>Picture them as your trusty noise-canceling companions, quietly orchestrating the ideal environment for learning and productivity. Whether you're a student needing quiet for focused work or a teacher trying to maintain classroom harmony, these apps are our reliable allies.</p> <p><u>Use:</u> These noise-canceling apps that can be used in the classroom. Let me introduce you to a few of them:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <u>Bouncy Balls</u>: Imagine a world where your classroom stays as peaceful as a library. Bouncy Balls is like your noise guardian angel. It's a free app that keeps an ear out for noise levels. And guess what? If things get too loud, it plays a friendly alarm to remind everyone to keep it down. 3. <u>Noise Killer</u>: This one's for our Android buddies. Noise Killer is like your trusty sidekick when it comes to dealing with noisy crowds. Whether you're in a library, classroom, or office, this app swoops in to help maintain that oh-so-precious silence. 4. <u>Classcraft</u>: If you're a teacher, you'll love this one. Classcraft is like your classroom superhero. It not only helps with classroom management but also includes a noise monitor feature (Class Tools > Volume Meter - The Makus Valley challenge). It shows you a visual graph of the noise level, and if things start to get too noisy, it kindly alerts you.
<p>Classroom Layout and Seating chart app</p>	<p><u>Rationale:</u> As a teacher in a bustling classroom, you'll discover that Gynzy is an absolute gem. This online teaching platform, complete with its classroom seating chart feature, will revolutionize the way you organize your class. It's like having a virtual interior decorator for your classroom!</p> <p>With Gynzy, you can effortlessly design a floor plan, assign seats, and let your creativity run wild with various furniture options, plants, and decorations. This not only helps you optimize the learning environment but also adds an exciting touch for your students.</p> <p>Gynzy will soon become your go-to tool for ensuring that your classroom isn't just functional but also visually engaging. It's a win-win for both organization and aesthetics, making teaching an even more enjoyable and enriching experience.</p> <p><u>Use:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <u>Gynzy</u>: Gynzy is an online teaching platform that includes a classroom seating chart feature. Teachers can design a floor plan for their class with assigned seating, choose from different types of furniture, plants, decorations, and more.

<p>Calm Down Tools</p>	<p><u>Rationale:</u> Tibetan singing bowl apps to be a valuable resource. These apps faithfully reproduce the calming tones of traditional Tibetan singing bowls when you strike or rub them with a wooden stick.</p> <p>They actively create a serene atmosphere, which is particularly useful for moments when you need to regain focus or take a mindful pause. The soothing sound of the singing bowl not only aids in relaxation but also prompts a moment of mindfulness and self-reflection.</p> <p>It's like a brief escape from the daily classroom hustle and bustle. By incorporating these apps, you actively promote well-being and attentiveness among your students, making them essential tools in your teaching toolkit.</p> <p><u>Use:</u> 6. <u>Tibetan singing bowl apps:</u> Many teachers profess their love for Tibetan singing bowls, which emit calming tones when you strike or rub them with a wooden stick. Now you can have the exact effect but in app form. Asks your students “to listen carefully and raise their hand when they NO LONGER hear the ring anymore! The room gets quiet, as they are focused on listening to hear when it stops.”</p>
<p>Technology for the Online Classroom:</p>	
<p>Interactive Educational Websites & Tools</p>	<p><u>Rationale:</u> Teachers in the ever-evolving world of education, these online tools are your secret weapons. Classcraft has added a thrilling dimension to classroom management. It's like bringing the magic of gaming into the learning process. With customizable avatars, quests, and rewards, it keeps students engaged and motivated.</p> <p>And let's talk about smart video cameras, like the Meeting Owl – they've transformed remote classes into something close to face-to-face interactions.</p> <p>Imagine having a camera that pivots to follow whoever's speaking, making virtual classes feel more personal and engaging. These tools aren't just convenient; they're game-changers, enhancing both the teaching and learning experience. They are invaluable assets in any classroom toolkit.</p> <p><u>Use:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Classcraft:</u> Classcraft is a gamified classroom management app that allows teachers to create a game-like environment in their online classes. It includes features like customizable avatars, quests, and rewards. 2. Smart video cameras. Smart video cameras are designed to automatically track and focus on the speaker, which can help to create a more engaging and inclusive learning environment. Some popular smart video cameras include the <u>Meeting Owl</u>, <u>Nexvoo N149</u>, <u>Logitech Connect</u>.

Calm Down Tools

Rationale:

Using Tibetan singing bowl apps in online classrooms can be a wonderful way to create a serene and mindful environment in the virtual classroom.

They actively create a serene atmosphere, which proves especially useful for moments when you need to refocus or encourage mindfulness in your virtual classroom. Here's how you can make the most of these apps:

Use:

3. Tibetan singing bowl apps:

- a. Transition Moments: Use the singing bowl sound as a transition signal between different parts of your lesson. For example, when moving from one topic to another or taking a short break, play the singing bowl to signify the shift in focus.
- b. End on a Calm Note: Conclude your online class by playing the singing bowl sound again. It signals the end of the session and allows your students to leave with a sense of calm and mindfulness.



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