

Optimal Indoor Literacy Environments

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INTRODUCTION: WHY?

- Setting tells students what the teacher values
- Students learn better when they feel safe and valued in their environment

Research on the Importance of Physical Arrangement

**What does
research have to
say about what to
include in the
physical classroom
environment?**



Fred Steele's Six Functions of An Ideal Elementary Environment:

1. Security and shelter
2. Social Contact
3. Symbolic
Identification
4. Task Instrumentality
5. Pleasure
6. Personal Growth

PHILOSOPHIES

- Reggio Emilia
- Waldorf
- Montessori



Reggio Emilia

- ❖ Environment is the “Third Teacher”
- ❖ Welcoming, nurturing, home-like
- ❖ Children’s work placed at eye level
- ❖ Documentation of learning
- ❖ Set up for interaction and collaboration with others
- ❖ Thoughtful engagement with materials



Waldorf

- ❖ Open plan/flexible (configuration can be changed easily)
- ❖ Warmth, simplicity, comfort
- ❖ Natural light
- ❖ Purposeful, minimalist environment
- ❖ Functional materials
- ❖ Natural colours
- ❖ Easy to move around





Montessori

- ❖ Prepared, child-centred environment
- ❖ Order, cleanliness, and beauty
- ❖ Minimalist approach
- ❖ Ability to move around easily
- ❖ Calm, neutral, quiet background
- ❖ Items carefully chosen



Considerations ...

Try to avoid

- ❖ BRIGHT PRIMARY COLOURS
- ❖ *ToO Much clutter - no sPACE for the eyeS to reST*
- ❖ Posters and Images that are not relevant to the class and what is being/will be learned
- ❖ Student grade charts
- ❖ NO NATURAL LIGHT







