

Here is a “checklist” for setting up your first grade classroom. Design towards setting up the classroom environment to support student’s independence, access and belonging. It’s a lot! Before digging in, seek support from your site admin and colleagues. Likely many of the materials here are already taken care of at the site level, once you ask. These materials are not specific to content. Please refer to content checklists for student materials needed for each content.

Classroom Set Up Checklist	Examples/Samples
Goals: Strategically organizes physical classroom space, furniture, and materials to support a welcoming, efficient and comfortable learning environment.	
<p>Goal: Design physical classroom spaces to support student independence and access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Literacy/Math teaching area(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Suggest chart stands with white board and space for anchor charts and teaching supplies <input type="checkbox"/> Gathering rug <input type="checkbox"/> Empty walls designated by content area for anchor charts <input type="checkbox"/> Space for content area materials, choice time materials, and classroom supplies <input type="checkbox"/> Empty wall space to display artifacts of student learning and images of students and families <input type="checkbox"/> Library area <input type="checkbox"/> Morning meeting and calendar routine area <input type="checkbox"/> White board and projector display area <input type="checkbox"/> Handwashing space and materials <input type="checkbox"/> Area for backpacks and warm things <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Suggest label cubbies or hooks with name tags <input type="checkbox"/> Small group learning area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Suggest kidney table <input type="checkbox"/> Suggest having access near to student materials for small group instruction <input type="checkbox"/> Suggest having access near to curriculum/books for small group instruction such as F&P LLI kits 	<p>Literacy Teaching Area and Chart stands and anchor charts</p> <p>Gathering rug</p> <p>Empty walls by content area</p> <p>Family Wall</p> <p>Library</p> <p>Morning Meeting</p> <p>Handwashing Station 1 and 2</p> <p>Backpack area</p> <p>Small group learning area</p>
<p>Goal: Create a variety of student seating to support individual and collaborative learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure a variety of individual spaces as well as table spots <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Suggest including a peace table/calm corner <input type="checkbox"/> UDL options for seating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Suggest camping floor seats, wiggle chairs <input type="checkbox"/> Suggest ensuring tables are sturdy and screws tightened <input type="checkbox"/> Suggest ensuring ample space for students to walk between tables and access materials/areas of room 	<p>How to Build a Peace Corner</p> <p>Peace Table</p> <p>Flexible Seating</p>
<p>Goal: Label, label, label for student independence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Name tags <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Suggest labeling with with corresponding colors to table spots <input type="checkbox"/> Have extra <input type="checkbox"/> Table spot name tags <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Suggest don’t tape too heavily day one- there will be first day changes <input type="checkbox"/> Have extra 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Student bins for class materials (folder, notebook, book bag) <input type="checkbox"/> Table caddy for table materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Suggest only include what you will teach how to use on first day <input type="checkbox"/> Label by table color <input type="checkbox"/> Table paper bin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Label by table color <input type="checkbox"/> Snack bins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Label by table color <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch bin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Label with class <input type="checkbox"/> Recess bin with recess balls, jump ropes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Label for class <input type="checkbox"/> Table spots <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Label tables by color <input type="checkbox"/> Rug spots <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Corresponding rows with table color for transitions <input type="checkbox"/> Circle spots <input type="checkbox"/> Line up spots <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch spots 	Table caddies
<p>Goal: Organize manipulatives and materials for independence and access</p> <p>Suggestions for all manipulatives and materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce each only after interactive modeling ○ Closed bins ideally labeled in students' target languages and with photos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Class use student materials <input type="checkbox"/> Math manipulatives <input type="checkbox"/> Writing center paper and materials <input type="checkbox"/> Various literacy station manipulatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Suggestions: Magnetic alphabets, literacy games, wiki stix, letter frame boxes, sentence frame boxes <input type="checkbox"/> Various choice time materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Suggestions: blocks, kapla, magnatiles, dramatic play, art materials, board games 	Labels Math materials Class materials Writing Center Choice time center
<p>Goal: Set up materials for essential content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Locate and organize materials for each essential content <input type="checkbox"/> Set up classroom library <input type="checkbox"/> Set up big book library <input type="checkbox"/> Set up mentor text display <input type="checkbox"/> Set up small collections of books (book bins) for each table with emergent books, picture books, early chapter books, alphabet books featuring diverse characters, perspectives and topics to act as windows and mirrors <input type="checkbox"/> Set up a few key literacy and choice time stations to introduce week one 	Library Book bins Classroom Libraries Guidance from ELA department
<p>Goal: Create anchor charts to scaffold student independence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Labeled with words, times and photos <input type="checkbox"/> Word wall alphabet <input type="checkbox"/> Alphabet key sounds 	Arrival Routine Word wall Alphabet key

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Numbers chart <input type="checkbox"/> Routines charts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Arrival/dismissal, bathroom, line up, handwashing, etc <input type="checkbox"/> Labeled with words and photos <input type="checkbox"/> Morning Meeting Norms <input type="checkbox"/> Attention signal <input type="checkbox"/> Class (or school) Norms or expectations <input type="checkbox"/> Sentence frames and signals for key routines/asks 	sounds Choice time routine Attention Signal Centers Routine Conflict Scaffold
<p>Overall Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keep it sparse- materials in bins closed, walls relatively blank, calming color scheme... the goal is to develop student ownership and independence over their learning environment. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduce materials gradually as you teach into procedures, routines and materials with interactive modeling, reinforcing and reflection. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keep anchor charts and environment scaffolds at children's eye level as much as possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check in with grade level colleagues, coaches, admin for access to materials and for recommendations and feedback around setting up your learning environment. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seek support from colleagues, coaches and admin for classroom library set up especially 	Keep it sparse A few more examples