Testing Guide Overview
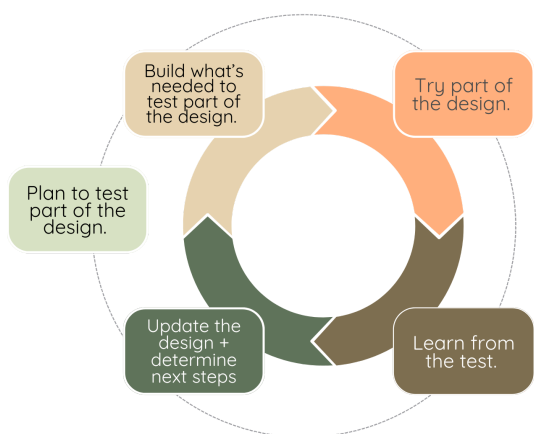

Testing for Centering Space

A test is a smaller-scale implementation of a strategy, usually done to learn more about how a strategy works before investing the resources in scaling it up. Testing is a key bridge between crafting the design vision and implementing it at scale. Testing allows us to try out our ideas in low-stakes ways and helps us learn and make informed decisions about the design and how we might implement it while strengthening conditions in the process. In this testing guide, we'll focus on testing the **Whole Child Model CARE Practice: Centering Space**

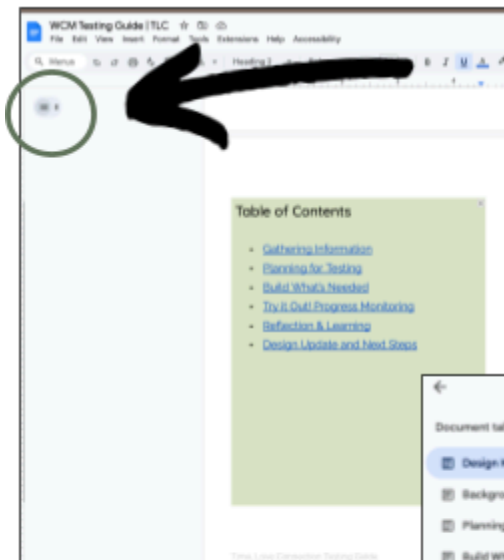| Why do we test?	How will this testing guide help?
Testing helps us try out strategies in smaller, lower-lift ways that allow us to learn what works and what doesn't about a strategy at our school before implementing it at a greater scale. We test to help understand the following: • Tend to conditions around **Centering Space** • Learn what will be required for the effective implementation of **Centering Space**	This tool is meant to help your school plan your test for the Whole Child Model strategy, **Centering Space,** so your design team is clear on goals, steps, timelines, and roles & responsibilities. This testing kit will guide you through a pilot test. From the pilot test, you'll have the information you need to make the decisions such as testing a Centering Space adoption, testing Centering Space again with more teachers, or moving on to school-wide implementation,

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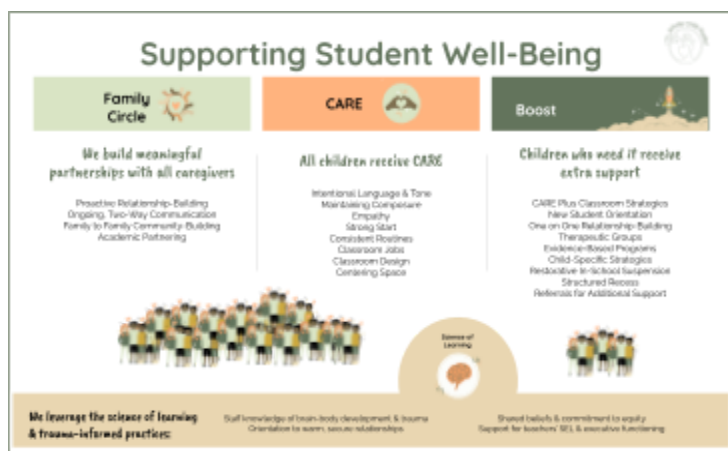
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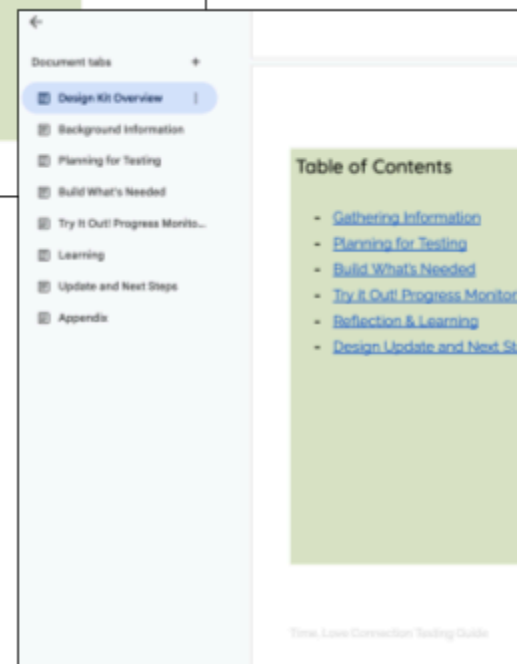
Background Information

# Exploring the Whole Child Model and Centering Space

[Ground yourself in the Whole Child Model & Boost](#)

Our vision is that every child attends school where his or her well-being is a priority. We hope that one day in schools across the country, each student feels safe and loved and can develop the social, emotional, and academic skills they need to thrive and transform the world. To reground yourself in the full Whole Child Model, including CARE, Boost, and Family Circle, visit the link above.

[Gain an overview of the CARE Strategy: Centering Space](#)

A part of CARE is Centering Space. Centering Space is a designated classroom area that students can access to support their emotional self-regulation. Students may use the Centering Space when they are calling for love or help, feeling overwhelmed, feeling tired, feeling frustrated, or other strong emotions. Before diving into the Testing Guide, explore the Whole Child Model website and read about Centering Space.
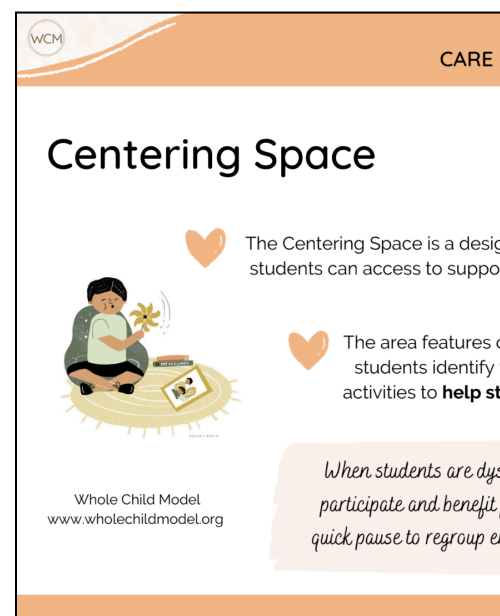
Planning for Testing

Planning for Testing

Identifying your purpose and participants

By the end of this testing guide, you will be able to make the following decision about Centering Space :

Reground in your vision	
What needs and/or data lead you to focus on Centering Space?	

Decisions we will make as a result of this test
☐ Test Centering Space adaptation ☐ Test Centering Space with more additional teachers/grade levels ☐ Testing Centering Space with additional components ☐ Move to School-Wide Implementation of Centering Space ☐ <Other>

Let's start by identifying your purpose and participants for this test by engaging with some guiding questions:

What we're testing + with who + when	
Strategy tested: (choose one)	☐ Centering Space

Which component(s) of Centering Space will you pilot? (choose 2-3 at a time if you are just starting)	☐ Cozy seating ☐ Breathing strategies ☐ Recognizing Feelings ☐ Calming Activities ☐ Identifying Solutions ☐ We have piloted it before and are ready to do all the components.
Length of test (choose one)	☐ 5-7 Weeks (piloting 2-3 Centering Space components) ☐ 8-11 Weeks (piloting one strategy in each component)
What are we focused on? (choose one)	☐ Decide whether we need to modify our approach to Centering Space to have students ☐ Decide whether we want to implement Centering Space with additional teach teachers ☐ Decide whether we need to implement Centering Space with additional comp ☐ Create a plan for how to support larger-scale staff implementation of Centerin ☐ *Other:*

Check the questions that you want to answer through your test	What data will help us answer this question?		Notes
☐ Does Centering Space have the intended impact for students? For which students does it work? For whom has it not worked yet?	☐ Student IVs ☐ Student survey ☐ Observation Data ☐ Other: [insert here]	☐ Shadowing a student ☐ Staff survey ☐ Staff interviews ☐ Discipline #s	
☐ What does it take for teachers to implement Centering Space well? What support do they need?	☐ Student IVs ☐ Student survey ☐ Observation Data ☐ Other: [insert here]	☐ Shadowing a student ☐ Staff survey ☐ Staff interviews ☐ Discipline #s	
☐ How might we adapt Centering Space so that it works for all students?	☐ Student IVs ☐ Student survey ☐ Observation Data ☐ Other: [insert here]	☐ Shadowing a student ☐ Staff survey ☐ Staff interviews ☐ Discipline #s	

☐ What changes to our school design (schedule, adult roles, budget, space, etc) are needed for Centering Space to work well?	☐ Student IVs ☐ Student survey ☐ Observation Data ☐ Other: [insert here]	☐ Shadowing a student ☐ Staff survey ☐ Staff interviews ☐ Discipline #s	
☐ Other:	☐ Student IVs ☐ Student survey ☐ Observation Data ☐ Other: [insert here]	☐ Shadowing a student ☐ Staff survey ☐ Staff interviews ☐ Discipline #s	

Laying the Groundwork:

In this section, you will answer the questions
- Who will lead this work?
- How will we determine who participates in Centering Space testing?
- What are the recommended steps for testing Centering Space?
- What is a recommended timeline for testing Centering Space?

Recommended Scope and Timeline			
	Event	**Date(s)**	**Own**
Before	☐ Convene a group to coordinate the program		
	☐ Assign a lead for implementing the steps.		
	☐ As a group, identify 3-5 staff members who have the capacity to pilot Centering Space		

	☐ Prepare staff to support
	  ☐ Confirm staff participation in Centering Space testing
	  ☐ Update identified staff on Centering Space strategy
	  ☐ Lead professional learning for piloting staff
	  ☐ Share timeline for implementation (i.e., meetings to launch, check-in, etc.)
	  ☐ Share initiative with pertinent staff outside of piloting staff		

	☐ Centering Space Training and Planning ☐ Launch Share component-specific resources for Centering Space accessible on the [Whole Child Model website](#)			
	☐ Launch ☐ If needed, ensure social stories and visual resources are in place			
During	☐ Monitoring and adjustment ☐ Check-in with staff about Centering Space (insert sample questions to ask)			
	☐ Mid-pilot check-in (fill out the "Try it Out" section")			
	☐ Complete 2-3 classroom/building walkthroughs to notice use and impact			
After	☐ Student Post-Pilot Survey			
	☐ Post-Pilot Debrief Meeting			
	☐ Update design and next steps for implementation			

Build What's Needed

Build What's Needed

In this section, identify the materials needed to run our test and learn from our test.

	What we need + final link to resources	Does this need to be customized? If so, how?	w
Materials to RUN our test *E.g. lesson plans, materials students will engage with, poster of behavior expectations, training materials for staff etc.*	Centering Space testing calendar - [Sample: testing 2-3 components at a time](#) - [Sample: testing all components simplified (8-11 week)](#)		
	Turnkey deck to introduce Centering Space 🟨 Testing Guide | Centering Space Tur…		
	📘 Centering Space Implementation G… - This includes resources and tools for Centering Space components		
	🟨 Centering Space Social Story- Engli…		
	[Sample Teacher Facing Roll-out Plan](#) aligned to testing all components		

Materials to **LEARN FROM** our test *E.g. student survey, walkthrough form, teacher reflection form, etc. See evidence-gathering methods [here](#).*	Evidence Gathering Methods: - [Centering Space Student Survey](#) - [Centering Space Teacher Pre/Post-Reflection](#) - [Centering Space Observation Tool](#) - [Centering Space Observation Tool with Continuum](#)		

Try It Out! Progress Monitoring
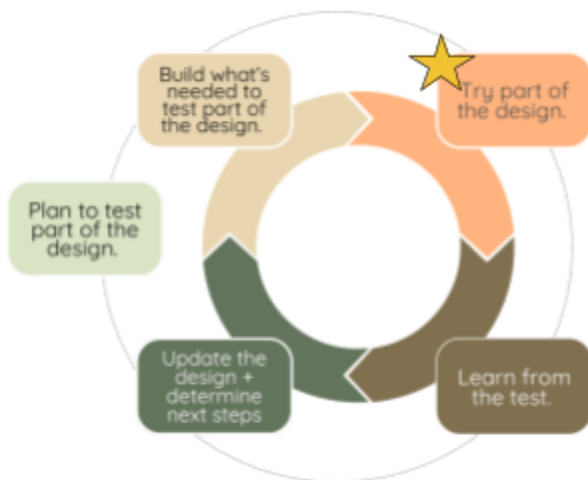
Try It Out!

Now that you have a plan, it's time to try it out!

What evidence-gathering approach(es) did you use?	Link the evidence you gathered (e.g. inter[...]
Pull from the Build What's Needed section	video of observations, etc).

Anything else to note about what happened before/during/after the test, that would be helpful to note w[...] evidence? *This includes the extent to which the experience was run to fidelity during the test.*

Learn from the Test

What Have We Learned?

It's time to pause and reflect on what you have learned from your test.

Your learning question(s) *Copy from Planning section*	Emerging answers *Based on the evidence you gathered, what is your emerging answer to this question?*	Implic... *What does this m... or o...*

Summarize: What are your three biggest takeaways from the test?	If you created your evidence
1. 2. 3.	

Update and Next Steps

Design Update and Next Steps

Having run your test and synthesized your learnings, you should now be able to take purposeful action informed by those learnings. Below, note what you will do or decide given what you learned, and any other next steps you need to take.

What will you do and decide as a result of this test?	☐ Test Centering Space with an adaptation ☐ Test Centering Space with more additional teache ☐ Test Centering Space with additional components ☐ Move to School-Wide Implementation of Centerin ☐ <Other>
How might you change the design of this student experience? What other next steps do you need to take? *Note: Based on your learnings from this test, what needs to be updated - either about your vision for Centering Space or your school-wide systems and procedures?*	

As you think about expanding implementation, what needs to remain the same about your Centering Space steps? What needs to change?

Appendix

Appendix for Centering Space

Quick links to resources

- [Centering Space Implementation Guide](#)
- [Centering Space: Sample Calendar Testing 2-3 components at a time](#)
- [Centering Space: Sample Calendar Testing all components simplified (8-11 week)](#)
- [Centering Space Turnkey Deck](#)
- [Centering Space Social Story Example](#)
- [Centering Space: Sample Teacher Facing Roll Out Plan](#)
- [Centering Space Student Survey](#)
- [Centering Space Teacher Pre/Post-Reflection](#)
- [Centering Space Observation Tool](#)
- [Centering Space Observation Tool with Continuum](#)