

## How Does Classroom Space Influence Learning?

**Directions:** Have you ever walked into a building, a school, or an office and just felt happy? Are there certain colors that appeal to your senses? What about order and structure? Observe several classrooms with your novice teacher to see how they use their physical space. How do you think students are influenced by the physical space and light in a classroom?

*Discuss these questions with your mentee.*

1. How can clutter in a classroom distract students?
2. Do students know where all materials go in the classroom?
3. Are you an organized person?
4. How do you keep the paper organized?
5. Does your room have lots of materials that are out dated and not being used?
6. How is the lighting? Windows? How does light influence learning?
7. Is your classroom a pleasant learning environment?
8. What did you observe in other teachers' classrooms that could be adapted for your classroom?

### **Find out what the students think too.**

Create a survey or interview a few students to find out what they think of the school space and design. Is there a way students can contribute to the environment by making the space more pleasing? Ask them what their ideas are for improving the space in your classroom as well as your mentee's classroom.

Retrieved from the companion website for *Mentoring in Action: Guiding, Sharing, and Reflecting With Novice Teachers: A Month-by-Month Curriculum for Teacher Effectiveness*, Second Edition, and *The First Years Matter: Becoming an Effective Teacher: A Mentoring Guide for Novice Teachers*, Second Edition, by Carol Pelletier Radford. Copyright © 2017 by Corwin. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin, [www.corwin.com](http://www.corwin.com)