



Guiding Young Children's Behavior

Segment 2: Arranging the Classroom

TRANSCRIPT for Objective 3

Resolving behavior problems by rearranging classroom space

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Host: We've been learning how room arrangement can be a tool teachers use to support children's desired behaviors. Now we're going to visit a preschool classroom to see how some minor room changes had a major impact on a child's behavior.

Rita: You started from the bottom and built all the way up to the top.

Narrator: If a child is displaying challenging behavior, the solution can sometimes be as simple as changing the classroom environment. Teacher Rita Johnson rearranged her block area after she observed one child's frustration with too little space.

Rita Johnson, Preschool Teacher: Baltimore is a child who loves to build in the block area. But he's also a child, that takes, who needs a lot of space. I realized after observing him a while, I saw that he was having, he was becoming quite frustrated in the block area. His belief was that the other children were imposing on his space. He felt like he was building, but they weren't giving him enough room. So then I saw the need that perhaps the block area didn't have enough space, and maybe it needed to be expanded.

Rita: You think it's going to stay? Woah, woah, woah. We're done, we're done? Okay, you got anymore? Is that it? Oh that's it—that's all the blocks. Okay.

Rita Johnson: When you saw him today, it's because we had rearranged the block area so he would be able to play with more space.

Host: Now we want you to think about a behavioral issue that you're currently facing in your classroom. What changes could make to the physical classroom environment that would improve the situation?

Activity 2D: Improving Behavior Through a Classroom Arrangement

Voiceover: Write down a particular behavioral issue you are facing right now in your class room. What changes could you make to the physical classroom environment that would improve the situation?

Did you consider ...?

Voiceover: Some ways you might improve behavior through classroom rearrangement include:

- Making more space in centers where crowding causes aggression.
- Partitioning centers with dividers when children are unfocused and not sticking with tasks.
- Moving quiet areas away from loud ones when children are getting distracted by loud noise.
- Creating larger pathways where children are bumping into one another
- Breaking up classroom space with shelves and dividers when children are running the length of the classroom.

Host: This concludes the information in segment two. Let's take a moment to review our objectives. First, we applied three methods of arranging classroom space and learning centers to promote positive behavior. Next, we designed a classroom getaway space and discussed why getaway spaces are important for young children. Finally, we described how classroom behavior problems can be resolved by rearranging classroom space. You can apply these ideas to your own classroom by completing the ideas into practice for this segment. Or you can return to the main menu and move to another segment.