

# Creating an Effective Learning Environment and Engaging Classroom Experience

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**Abstract:** There are a myriad of different factors in the classroom that impact a student's learning experience. We will explore these factors as they relate to the physical classroom environment, instructional methods, and school uniforms.



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## The Impact of School Uniforms on the School Learning Environment

- Although many people believe school uniforms impact the school learning environment and the success of students, this is proven to be false (Ordway 2006).
- Implementing school uniforms in a school environment has many pros such as convenience, promoting confidence, and allowing the students to become less concerned with what they look like. However, these pros do not contribute to the success of students within the classroom.
- The cons of wearing school uniforms include parents and students are opposed to them, staff members become too focused on dress code, and uniforms are a distraction from focusing on other transformations to improve our schools.
- Overall, school uniforms do not improve attendance, academic preparedness, or exam results.

## Classroom Instructional Design Models

- In the multiage classroom model students are grouped based on ability rather than age. It allows for more flexibility through enabling students "to naturally progress socially and cognitively beyond what can be facilitated in a single age design" (Bailey et al., 2016).
- The productive failure-based flipped classroom supports problem solving from a young age. It involves discussion and problem solving relating to the new concepts first even though students may initially face some failures (Song & Kapur, 2017). The students are taught the concept after having completed the problem solving.
- The physical design of a classroom ties directly to the instructional design. When designing the physical layout of the classroom the teacher must take all of the aspects of the instructional design into consideration (Pearlman, 2010).
- Because all students learn differently, there is not one instructional design model that can be determined as most effective.



Retrieved from: <http://mrsknappsclassroom.weebly.com/blog/flexible-seating-update>

## Alternative Classrooms and Their Benefits

- Sitting still in a desk for seven hours a day is not easy for most elementary school students – especially those with learning barriers such as ADHD or ADD.
- Alternative classrooms, from small-scale alterations to major changes, can provide the sensory, auditory, and flexible accommodations needed to help students achieve to their best ability.
- The majority of students with learning barriers or disabilities are in regular classes, so there is a need for modifications in the physical classroom environment to accommodate their behavioral and intellectual needs.
- Recent studies (Armstrong, 1999; Day et al., 2015) emphasize creating interactive classroom environments that cultivate students' unique personalities and skills.
- Creating these "less restrictive" classroom environments can be as simple as giving a student a hand or foot fidget, such as a stress ball or elastic band around the legs of their chair, or as large-scale as allowing flexible seating for all students.

