



The National Center on
Quality Teaching and Learning

Tips for Teachers Zoning



Zoning is a strategy used in classrooms to organize teachers and the classroom environment. It helps the classroom to run smoothly and allows for the teachers to be responsive to the children at all times.

- **Create a daily classroom schedule** for the children and teachers to follow. This helps to keep the day predictable for all members of the classroom community.
- **Create a chart** that specifies which teacher is in charge of which area/activity, as well as what individual duties are during the transitions before and after the activity. Creating a classroom zoning chart can be highly beneficial to the lead teacher, as well as boost the confidence of assistance teachers. Zoning allows every member of the team to be accountable and informed.
- **Position your body** so you are always able to see the children. If you are on your knees in the classroom, be sure you can see over the shelving units so that you are aware of the children's whereabouts at all times.
- **Scan your assigned area** and the rest of the classroom at all times. This allows staff members to be constantly aware of what is happening in the classroom.
- **Talk to the other staff members** in the classroom throughout the day. Be sure to highlight positive behaviors you see the children engaging in, "Wow, look at these children trading toys so nicely" as well as address any issues that may arise, "Teacher Teri, I need to help Oscar wash his hands, can you cover my area?"