

Session 4 Learn: Classroom Environment and Technology Routines



How do your classroom routines and the setup of your physical space in the classroom impact UDL?

Very little time in professional development is given to how we use the space in our classrooms. Often, when teachers try to increase differentiation strategies, they run up against barriers of space. It takes too long to arrange students into groups if it requires a total rework of the classroom space. The same thing is true about integrating technology. Without some routines established that students are familiar with, it takes too long to get kids using computers within a class period.

Please read the chapter on physical classroom space and watch the short video of a teacher talking about his classroom routines.

Chapter 5 of [The Skillful Teacher: Building Your Teaching Skills](#), by Jon Saphier and Robert Gower talks about the considerations you make when setting up your classroom.

The [video features Craig Crowley](#), a middle school reading teacher. He talks about how he set up some routines to make the use of technology more effective in his classroom.

Session 4 Discuss: Classroom Environment and Technology Routines

Reflections on Classroom Space and Routines

Discussion and Reflection:

Take a photo of some aspect of your classroom that illustrates how the physical space supports UDL. Then, reflect on *one or both* of the following:

- *How does matching your classroom space to instruction, as described in chapter 4, complement the UDL concept of providing students with choices?*
- *How does your physical environment complicate or support UDL routines such as those mentioned in the video?*

Responses to Colleagues:

- *How does your colleague's comments and photograph influence your own opinions about the use of physical space in your classroom?*
- *How does viewing the variety of reflections and photographs help you understand the relationship between the physical setup of your classroom and the teaching?*