

# My 2nd Grade Classroom

By Kristen Harrison

# My Teaching Philosophy

My teaching philosophy encompasses an emphasis on forming strong, healthy relationships in the classroom. Procedures and routines are taught from the very first day of school, allowing students the creative liberty to monitor their own learning and pursue their passions. All rules, procedures, and disciplinary actions are focused on enabling each student to discover a love for learning and achieve their full potential. The organization of the classroom will give students freedom of movement and access to materials for both collaborative and independent learning.

# Flexible Rules Seating! ☆

- 1) Choose a **WORKING** spot that helps you do your **BEST** → **SMART SEAT**  
*George* *Abe*
- 2) Use each seat the **RIGHT WAY**
- 3) If a spot is **NOT** working for you, **MOVE** so you can do your **BEST!**  
*Clare* *Sam*  
*Michelle*
- 4) **CLEAN UP** after yourself and others!!  
*Maria* *Blake*
- 5) Ms Kristen can move **ANYONE** at **ANYTIME** if they don't follow the rules.  
*Andrew* *Julia*

# Elements and Materials in the Classroom

## Creating connections and a sense of belonging

- Carpeting and/or comfortable rugs
- Couch
- Cozy pillows
- Lots of books, blocks, legos, and other materials found in the home
- A cubby for each child to put their personal items in
- Photo tree with pictures of the students' families
- Soft Lamps

## Flexible space and open-ended materials

- Furnishings that the students can move
- Blocks
- Legos
- Building materials
- Art supplies
- Clay
- Playdough

## Natural materials that engage the senses

- As much natural light as possible
- Plants
- Sensory table with natural materials such as water, sand, or dirt
- Things to touch and use
  - i. dyed corn kernels
  - ii. rocks
  - iii. shells
  - iv. pine cones
  - v. outdoor class collections
  - vi. Clay and play dough
  - vii. Wooden materials
- Wicker baskets for storage (instead of plastic bins when possible)
- Wooden Furniture

## Wonder, curiosity, and intellectual engagement

- Books
- Craft supplies that are accessible
- Technology
- Board games, card games, math games
- Movable stage
- Bin of costumes
- Sensory table

# Symbolic representations in the learning domains/ disciplines

- Specific wall space for student work
- Zones for different subjects
  - i. Reading zone
  - ii. Quiet zone
  - iii. Building zone
- Student projects are displayed throughout the classroom
  - i. Students build and create parts of the classroom
    1. Cardboard fort
    2. Reading boxes
    3. Tents
- Class job chart
- Class garden care schedule
- Posted Class Schedule/ Agenda



# Overview of the Classroom









# Environment Plans

## Listening Center

### Objectives:

- Listen to different books and texts
- Read along with the audio
- Summarize audiobooks through writing, drawing, and speaking
- Recall and recognize vocabulary and spelling words

### Materials:

- Several sets of headphones or earbuds
- Audiobooks and printed books
- Earbud splitter
- Printed QR codes
- Worksheets with drawing/writing sections
- Three colored folders



### Activities:

- Listening during independent work time
- Listen with a friend, follow along, and present the book

# Building & Engineering Center

## Objectives:

- Distinguish between different types of materials
- Design various structures
- Assemble objects in different ways
- Predict the best ways to construct a structure
- Complete various tasks and challenges
- Use imagination

## Materials:

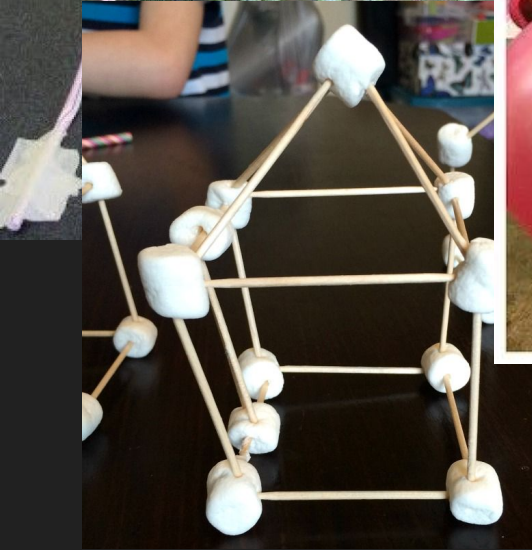
- Box of Building Challenges
- Building materials
- Ipad
- Worksheets



## Activities:

- Build and create from imagination
- Complete building challenges
- Collaborate
- Take pictures and record creations





MATH  
GEEK  
BLOG

# Class Garden

## Objectives:

- Identify the needs of specific plants
- Record observations of plants and garden
- Predict the growth of different types of plants
- Research the best types of plants to plant in different areas and seasons
- Design and create a class garden ( Will plant both vegetables and flowers)
- Explore and observe the life cycle of plants



## Materials:

- Computers, Laptops, or ipads
- Seeds
- Watering cans
- Wood craft sticks
- Soil
- Planters and pots of various size and shape
- Spades
- Peat Moss
- Craft Supplies
- Gloves
- Mats or tablecloths to keep things clean

## Activities:

- Plant a garden/ plants
- Observe plant growth
- Observe the life cycle of plants
- Draw and chart plant parts
- Research which plants to plant
- Water and care for plants
- Transplant plants to bigger pots if necessary
- Harvest produce

# Class Book and Production

## Objectives:

- Read *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* as a class
- Discuss the book
- Explain and describe the different parts of the book
- Adapt the book into a play
- Select roles and practice parts
- Create and design costumes
- Create and design the props and backdrops

## Activities:

- Read and discuss the book as a class
- Adapt book into a play
- Design costumes and backdrops
- Put on production for family, faculty, students, and friends

## Materials:

- Craft Supplies
- Costumes
- Fabric
- Cardboard
- Paper
- Glue
- Glitter
- Ipads/laptops
- Tables to work on if necessary
- Scissors
- Glue
- Staplers
- *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*



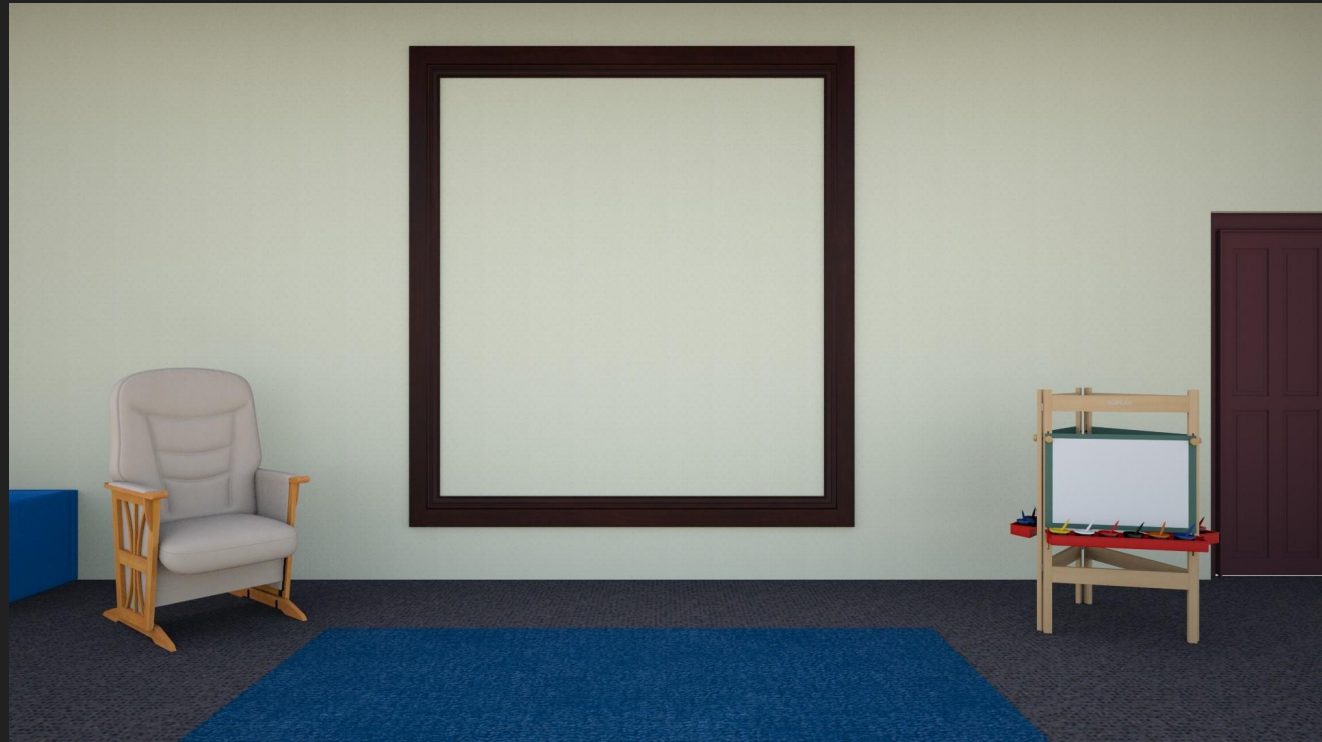
# Library/Reading area

- Materials
  - Books
  - Carpet
  - Couch
  - Pillows
  - Natural materials
    - Plants
  - Natural Light
  - Reading Zone
  - Quiet Space
  - Family Tree



# Community Zone

- Space to do large group work
- Introduce new topics
- Whiteboard
- Walls for visual representations of student learning
  - Class jobs
  - Agenda
  - Garden Chart
  - Projects
  - Etc.



# Sensory Table and Technology Center





# Teacher Zone





# References:

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