Learning Environments for Young Children

Infants and Toddlers	Preschoolers	Kindergarten - First Grade
○ Spaces are home-like, responsive and stimulate sensory needs ○ Some spaces invite play ○ Some spaces invite calm ○ Some spaces encourage exploration ○ Changing tables ○ Padded mats ○ Rocker ○ Low tables ○ Mobility toys ○ Different colors and patterns on the floors and walls ○ Good quality air, water, food ○ Developmentally appropriate manipulatives, playthings, and toys, ○ No small objects	○ Spaces are still home-like and offer connection and a sense of belonging ○ Spaces for group and individual work ○ Spaces for messy play/easy clean-up ○ Spaces for quiet, calm ○ Spaces for physical exercise ○ Spaces for individual storage, like a cubby ○ Developmentally appropriate manipulatives ○ Natural materials that engage the senses ○ Symbolic representations and visual arts ○ Materials for different cognitive levels, diversity ○ Flexible space and open-ended materials ○ Things that engage curiosity ○ Big calendar, day schedule	○ Spaces offer connection and a sense of belonging to the students. ○ Flexible, open spaces for projects/ play/exploration/centers ○ Tables for group and individual work ○ Spaces for messy projects/easy clean-up ○ Spaces for quiet, calm ○ Spaces for physical exercise ○ Spaces for individual storage, like a desk or cubby ○ Arrangements of tables/desks allow students to see each other as well as the teacher ○ Developmentally appropriate manipulatives ○ Natural materials that engage the senses ○ Symbolic representations and visual arts ○ Materials for different cognitive levels, diversity ○ Flexible space and open-ended materials ○ Things that engage curiosity ○ Big calendar, day schedule