



Children's Research Center, Turkey

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"Imagination is more important than knowledge" Albert Einstein



Let's redecorate the classroom! With the suggestions here, you can easily organize a classroom makeover, it is fun and it will create space for creativity for your students. These activities will also help you to enhance your students learning and social skills. Try these teacher-tested ideas for a classroom that shines with color and learning.

1. Train of Rules: The rules support the development of order in the classroom. The rules are also necessary for the development of desired behavior. You can use train of rules activity to help your students get involved in the formation of rules and understand the

importance of them. When the children have ownership in this activity, they take more responsibility in living up to the rules. Have each child design a construction-paper train car; paste one photo, drawing or note showing great behavior on each car. Tape the cars together along a blank wall. Every time you see a child modeling great behavior, add a strip of construction paper "cargo" atop his or her car.

2. Recycling Wall: You can create an interesting board to raise awareness of your students about recycling. Ask them to bring in a piece of reasonably clean trash: a glass jar, a mismatched sock, or an empty potato-chip bag. Use heavy-duty glue to attach each item to a bulletin board. Next to each object, have kids draw and write their ideas for how to use the item creatively, instead of consigning it to a landfill.

3. Room with a View: Here is a nice idea to decorate the walls of your class and create windows opening through their imagination world. First, invite kids to sketch ideas on paper for fantastic scenes that they'd like to see outside a window. Then have them work in teams to paint those scenes, window frames and all.

When they're done, hang colorful, inexpensive curtains around the windows for a finished look.

4. Foam-Board Kids: Have kids make life-size cut-outs that can really stand up to a year's worth of use. Have kids each lie down on a large sheet of foam board, while a partner traces carefully around them. Cut out the shapes and affix sturdy cardboard stands to the back so that each figure will stand on its own. Invite students to embellish their figures using craft supplies, yarn, buttons, and fabric scraps. Then arrange the figures around the room or put them in a public space as a special display.

5. Seeds in a Shoe: Creative planters on your classroom windowsill will give kids something to tend and care for, while lending your room color and life. Sneakers or rain boots that they've outgrown (or you've outworn) make fun, colorful planters. Pound a few holes in the bottom of the boot with a nail, then have students pour a thin layer of gravel in the bottom of the boot for drainage. Fill with potting soil and transplant flowers or seedlings from science experiments that have run their course.