

[Slides](#)

Foundational Frameworks & Layouts

- [The IRIS Center \(Vanderbilt University\)](#): A gold standard for evidence-based practices. Their modules on "Early Childhood Environments" and "Classroom Behavior Management" offer exceptional checklists for evaluating room layouts, managing traffic flow, and adjusting sensory elements like lighting and acoustics to minimize disruptions.
- [CAST \(Universal Design for Learning\)](#): The definitive resource for applying the UDL framework to physical spaces. Their guidelines focus on designing flexible environments, optimizing access to physical tools, and ensuring spaces proactively accommodate diverse motor, sensory, and learning needs without requiring retroactive fixes.
- [Center on PBIS](#): Focuses heavily on Tier 1 proactive support. Their "Classroom PBIS" section includes practical downloads like the *Creating Effective Classroom Environments Plan Template*, which helps educators systematically structure physical spaces to boost academic engagement and prevent challenging behaviors.

Behavior & Emotional Regulation

- [National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations \(NCPMI\)](#): Offers extensive, practical toolkits on adapting the physical environment to build social-emotional competence. Their materials provide actionable strategies for defining clear boundaries, organizing learning centers to prevent crowding, and creating visual supports that guide behavior.
- [Conscious Discipline Resources](#): Provides free printables and guides focused on organizing spaces that actively foster emotional regulation and connection. Key resources detail how to set up a dedicated "Safe Place" and structure the room to visually communicate safety and routine.

Specialized & Outdoor Environments

- [Head Start ECLKC \(Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center\)](#): Their *Responsive Learning Environments* guide is excellent for early education settings. It covers practical strategies like assessing the room from the child's eye level, balancing engaging materials without causing sensory overload, and integrating safe physical movement areas into the floor plan.
- [Natural Learning Initiative \(NLI\)](#): A premier resource for taking the physical environment outdoors. They offer evidence-based design guides for creating nature-based play areas, naturalizing existing playgrounds, and designing outdoor learning spaces that support both emotional regulation and physical development.