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Dear Charles,

I teach in a limited space, specifically an empty classroom, and I am growing increasingly frustrated with trying to come up with safe ideas for teaching large classes in such a small area. Can you give me some guidelines?

Squeezed In

Dear Squeezed In,

Limited Space Guidelines:

Teaching in an area with limited space such as a classroom, hallway, or secluded outside area is a unique opportunity to engage children in creative movement. It also provides an opportunity to teach students how to stay active despite a limited environment and lack of resources.

- **Go Outside** at every opportunity as long as weather permits and safety is priority number one!
- **Design** lesson activities that keep students active 80% of the class time!
- **Keep** every student actively engaged and involved!
- **Establish** procedures for working in your activity area during the first couple of lessons you start teaching in your space and at the start of each new unit, especially pertaining to safety.

Examples:

- Entering and Exiting the Room
- Warm -up and Cool Down
- Posting Objectives
- Handing out and Collecting Equipment (including any papers and writing utensils)
- Establish Movement Boundaries (Off Limit Areas, and How students Move during Activity)
- Discuss Peer Interaction
- Discuss Behavioral Expectations
- Nurse, Bathroom (Sign Out Sheet), Injury, Water
- Organization in the classroom
- Attendance
- Stop and Start Cues

- Transitions
- Fire Drill/Emergency Situations

- **Maintain** consistent positive, verbal reminders to students of your procedures and expectations.
- **Correct** misbehavior with specific examples of behavior broken and procedure to be followed (Do not assume your students will remember your guidelines!)
- **Be Flexible** (Be ready to adapt at any minute and know the circumstances of the day.)
- **Prepare** emergency plans and lessons to pull out when what you what you planned does not work or circumstances change without notice.
- **Carve** out your space (How will you organize your stuff, the students, and your self?)
- **Communicate** with classroom teachers (How will they interact with students while you are present? Ask before you move things. Have students calm and ready when returning them to Teacher. How will you use teacher resources? And so on and so forth.)
- **Additional Resources:** *"No Gym, No Problem," By Charmain Sutherland*
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To comment or have your question answered email me at charles.silberman@pgcps.org. Also, learn more about me at <http://www.charlessilberman.com>, and follow me on Twitter: ThePeGuy