



Collaborative Classroom Tables – Early Learning

The Need for Collaboration Classrooms

With the 21st century seeing an ever-increasing need for teamwork, collaboration and technology expertise, children can begin to develop and refine these skills as early as preschool. When young children work in groups to complete an activity or brainstorm new ideas, they are learning how to be an active listener, how to communicate and how to compromise—important skills they can apply to real-world situations throughout their lifetimes.

Requirements for a Great Collaboration Classroom

For **students**, a great collaboration classroom should offer children space for individual work as well as the ability to work in groups for projects and brainstorming. Students should be able to clearly see everyone in their group so it's easy to communicate and make eye contact. Open walkways allow children to move between groups and access supplies as needed. Lightweight seating makes it simple for early learners to pick up and move their seating without assistance.

For **teachers**, the collaboration classroom should maximize the ability to move among different groups to offer guidance and assistance or to facilitate communication. Teachers should be able to address the whole class as they call out instructions or provide demonstrations. All furniture should feature a low-profile, so teachers can observe all students at all times, no matter where they are in the room.

For **administrators**, the best collaboration classroom will be arranged and furnished to achieve the vision for that space. They need to know that all products are available at the time they are needed and that their order will arrive correctly and on time. Installations must be quick and efficient.

Collaboration Classroom Solutions from School Outfitters

School Outfitters' research and development professionals have designed a collaborative classroom with furnishings that fit the collaborative learning pedagogy. Products have been grouped together in ways to spark teamwork and to keep interactions going. The **Project Area**, **Gathering Area**, **Breakout Area** and **Storage Area** are all designed to work together to let students easily engage in group work.

A dedicated **Project Area** makes collaborative projects, games and activities easy to accomplish. This area includes:

- **Easels**
- **Stools**
- **Art supply storage**
- **Art table**
- **Collaborative table**
- **Preschool chair**
- **Sensory table**

Easels give students a surface for drawing, painting and other arts and crafts. Accessory trays contain messes.

Stools offer children a sturdy seating surface with a backless design that accommodates a variety of postures.

Art supply storage keeps crayons, markers, paints, papers and other supplies organized and easily accessible.

A dedicated **art table** gives students a place to spread out project materials and art supplies.

Collaborative tables can be used alone for small group activities or easily pushed together into configurations to accommodate larger groups. Collaborative tables facilitate communication since they're designed to ensure all members of the group can see each other.

Preschool chairs are lightweight and feature a grip handle in the back so students can lift and move their seating without assistance. The soft plastic construction flexes as children shift positions throughout the day.

A **sensory table** lets children experiment with sand, water or manipulatives. Removable bins are easy to fill and empty as needed.

The **gathering area** functions as a hub for full-class, teacher-led activities. This area includes:

- **Rug**
- **Easel**
- **Book display**
- **Floor pillows**

The **classroom rug** gives children a cozy and comfortable place to sit as they participate in games, activities or listen to a

story.

An **easel** offers teachers a place to prop open storybooks or display student artwork and assignments.

A **book display** keeps reading material easily accessible, allowing children to quickly browse and choose a book for story time.

Floor pillows keep children cozy as they listen to stories or participate in activities.

A **Breakout Area** adds a dedicated space for impromptu, small group activities or mentoring sessions. This area is equipped with:

- **Soft seating**
- **Rug**

Soft seating keeps children comfortable in this informal gathering space. When children are comfortable, they can focus on the discussion at hand.

A **classroom rug** brightens up the area and acts as additional seating space for children who prefer to sit on the floor.

The **Storage Area** keeps classroom supplies organized and easy to find. Storage units should feature a low profile, so teachers can observe all areas of the room. They may also be used to create dividers between each learning station. This area includes:

- **Lockers**
- **Cubby storage**
- **Open shelving**
- **Mobile bin storage**

Lockers give children a place to store personal belongings like a jacket or bookbag, while class is in session.

Cubby storage organizes classroom supplies, project components or toys.

Open shelving is perfect for items children should have ready access to such as story books or learning station supplies. They may also be used as a temporary display space for children's finished projects.

Mobile bin storage makes distributing and collecting supplies simple, since the unit can be wheeled directly to student work areas. The bins can also be completely removed from the cart for use at collaborative tables or learning stations.

Choosing your Collaboration Classroom Solution

School Outfitters makes it simple to outfit a classroom tailored specifically for a collaborative preschool environment. Choose the option that best fits your budget and needs, and with just one click, you get an itemized quote for this classroom, including all three of our specially-designed stations. Our helpful representatives are happy to answer any questions about our stations and how you can put them to use in your collaborative learning classroom. Just give us a call 1-800-260-2776.