



## Early Learning Classroom—Kiva & Open Space

### The Need for Kiva and Open Space Classrooms

Kiva and open space classrooms help children develop gross motor skills through active play. These spaces can also give children a comfortable place for individual activities such as reading, playing with manipulatives or drawing. Furnishings should be positioned so that wide walkways allow children and teachers to easily move from one area to another. Incorporating soft seating provides smooth, padded surfaces where children can sit or lay down. Play equipment directs children's energy while providing safe structures for climbing or sliding.

### Requirements for a Great Kiva and Open Space Classroom

For **students**, a kiva and open space classroom should employ wide walkways that allow students to safely walk or even run from one area to the other. Furnishings such as ottomans or beanbags give children a soft place to sit and prevent accidental bumps and bruises. Climbers and playsets encourage imaginative or dramatic play.

For **teachers**, the kiva and open space classroom should be spacious enough to ensure games and activities can be played safely. Furnishings should be soft or feature rounded edges to keep children safe, and playsets should be appropriately sized for the age group using the space. Storage cabinets and shelving is essential for storing manipulatives, balls, carpet squares and other play supplies.

For **administrators**, a kiva and open space classroom should be equipped with furnishings and play equipment that meets the safety requirements of their facility and works to accomplish the vision for the space. All products should be available at the time they are needed, and orders must arrive correctly and on time. Installations must be quick and efficient.

### Kiva and Open Space Classroom Solutions from School Outfitters

School Outfitters designed a kiva and open space classroom with furnishings that ensure children's safety and encourage them to participate in activities that support gross motor skills and dramatic and imaginative play. The **Gathering Area**, **Gross Motor Area**, and **Literacy Area** are designed to work together to create a stimulating environment that's perfect for early learners.

The **Gathering Area** aims to keep children comfortable during class-wide or small group activities. It includes:

- Soft seating

**Soft seating** gives early learners a colorful and comfortable place to sit for story time, show-and-tell and other group activities. The lightweight design makes it simple to arrange in different configurations.

The **Gross Motor Area** encourages children to engage in active, dramatic play in a contained, safe space. This area includes:

- Multi-use play equipment

**Multi-use play equipment** allows children to climb, jump, and discover new and creative ways to engage with their classroom playsets.

The **Literacy Area** provides students with a place to engage in independent activities or quiet play. This area includes:

- Reading center
- Mobile bin storage

A **reading center** gives children a comfortable place to sit or gather, as well as an easily accessible storage area to hold classroom story books.

**Mobile bin storage** keeps books organized and allows teachers to wheel the cart around the room as needed. Removable plastic bins allow children to choose a bin full of books to share with a reading circle.

### Choosing your Kiva and Open Space Classroom Solution

School Outfitters makes it easy to outfit the kiva or open space classroom at your early learning facility or daycare center. Choose the option that best fits your budget and needs, and get an itemized quote with just one click, 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 toddler classroom. Just give us a call 1-800-260-2776.