Alternative Seating Classroom

Other names:
- Deskless Classroom
- Flexible Learning Classroom

This is the color theme that I like: turquoise/light blue/aqua, lime green, dark brown/black.

Projected setup: over Spring Break
“It:”
● gives students the option of different seats to work at.
● gives students the option to stand while working.
● gives the students the option to work at a desk.
● opens up the classroom.
● gives the students room for more hands-on work.
● allows students to have a choice.

Here are some links that you might find interesting:
● Alternative Seating Brain Research
● Alternative Seating For Improved Learning
● Students stand, balance and bounce to learn
● Alternative Seating: How Things are Going
● Six Alternative Seating Options in the Classroom for a Child with Special Needs
“Studies on classroom seating suggest that sustained sitting in regular classroom chairs is unhealthy for children’s bodies, particularly their backs” (Schilling & Schwartz, 2004, p. 424).
1. helps students attention spans which results in higher achievement
2. makes students more actively engaged in the classroom
3. gives them an active outlet without disrupting their learning
4. makes them more physically fit
5. motivates students to want to come to school
6. helps those with ADHD and Autism, along with other special needs
7. helps develop a sense of community among the students which improves their social skills
8. helps them to become independent learners
9. is LOVED by the students and teacher
Introducing “Choice Seating” to the students:

- Since the students already know the routines of the classroom, changing to this will not be too difficult. It will be a learning experience for all of us!

- Students will be able to ‘try out’ the different seating areas, finding the ones that work the best for them.

- Once everyone has found their favorites, then the Management System on the next screen will be put into place.

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**HOW TO PICK A SPOT**

- If others are book shopping, you may not sit in the library.
- Choose a spot away from friends.
- Have your own bubble space.
- If there is already someone where you wanted to sit, go to another spot.
- If you can’t pick a spot in 1 minute, the teacher will choose a spot for you.
Management system for students choosing their seats

Students will initially choose where he/she would like to sit (for each activity throughout the day). If he/she is not making smart choices, his/her classroom number will be moved to the “First Notice” section. During the same activity, if the student continues to not make smart choices, I will move the number to “Teacher Choice,” which means I will choose where he/she will sit for the rest of the activity.
Sample of the finished layout
I am excited about beginning this innovative initiative with you and your child. I hope this will accentuate his/her learning environment and keep him/her engaged with his/her learning!

“Learning and innovation go hand in hand. The arrogance of success is to think that what you did yesterday will be sufficient for tomorrow.” – William Pollard
The supplies I already have in the classroom
three to four regular height desks with different types of seats

Currently, I only have classroom chairs and the blue chair in the picture (which will be removed at the end of this school year). I have submitted a grant to purchase wobble seats and ball chairs. These are shown in the next section (blue background).
three to four tall desks to stand and work

I will resize the legs for various standing heights of the first graders.
two to three low tables

Pillows can be placed on the floor to sit on.

These are the tables I have.
If my grant is approved, I can have wobble seats or ball seats around it.

This is also the table that I would place the 4-cubby organizers (mentioned in the Wishful Thinking section) at each end for more standing work areas and storage.
two camping chairs

These are child-size and are starting to wear down.

If you have any that you are finished with, donating them to the classroom would be greatly appreciated!

These can be used in a seating area with a small table in the middle.
three crate seats

These can be used in a seating area with a small table in the middle.

They need a little more padding on the top, which I can do during the summer.
two IKEA chairs

These can be used in a seating area with a small table in the middle.
six laundry baskets

Students sit in them for Read to Self or Read to Someone. They sometimes use small throw pillows to lean against.

They could sit in it to do work (using a clipboard).
Big Joe chair and vinyl bean bag
19-20 clipboards

These are enough for the class size that I have.
pillows

We already have 4-5 large pillows and 3 throw pillows (would prefer vinyl pillows).

Vinyl is better than cloth. Students will be leaning against the pillows or laying on them on their stomach. To minimize ‘critters’ or falling asleep, they will not be putting their heads on them.

Does anyone know how to make these pillow covers out of vinyl tablecloths? Maybe we can cover the pillows that I already have.
Supplies I would like to add to the classroom
whole group area rug

http://goo.gl/iC9vzJ
($139.00 at Walmart)
7’ x 10’ area rug

This will give the room a color theme
(light blue/turquoise, lime green, dark brown/black)
and denote the meeting area.
I would like one set of two tables in the ‘black oak’ color.

These would be in the middle of small seating areas (using seats that I already have, such as the Big Joe chair or IKEA chairs).

1-2 mini tables

- [Table 1](http://goo.gl/qH74P9) ($15 at Walmart for both tables - cubbies not included)
- [Table 2](http://goo.gl/4n5IoH) ($9.99 at Ikea - black-brown color)
- [Table 3](http://goo.gl/5XRpnG) ($34.99 at IKEA - black-brown color)

These are more expensive, but they have wheels so we can easily move them around the classroom.

I would like one set of two tables in the ‘black oak’ color.
book bins

These would hold students’ folders and workbooks on the bookshelves. I would like four to five sets.

http://goo.gl/GPX1jB
($20.99 for a set of 6 from Really Good Stuff)
Bungee chair or any other child-sized chair that you are willing to donate to the classroom

Vinyl is better than cloth.
clipboards with a flat clip

Walmart had these cardboard/wooden ones in the fall for about $1.50 each.

http://goo.gl/YjozGe ($2.61 each at Walmart for plastic ones)

I would need anywhere between 5-15 more of these (for replacements and dependent on class size).

The ‘flat clip’ makes it easier to store them in the classroom (they lay flatter than the other ones).
bookshelves for desk supplies

DonorsChoose.org

Click here if you’d like to donate money for the 6 bookshelves. This is Part 1 of the project.

Donors Choose will match your donations (up to $100) for the first week (until Jan. 27) if you mention LIFTOFF with your donation.

The bookshelves would have to be very sturdy and stand on their own so students could stand on either side to use the top as a work area.

I’m asking for 6 of these bookshelves.
three benches

I would set these around the carpet area for students to sit on as a bench. Therefore, they need to be sturdy, not made out of thin laminate.

Students can also use the top as a working area (take cushion off).

6 of these for storage

Donorschoose.org
Click here if you’d like to donate money for three benches and 6 storage bins. (This is Part 2 of the project.)
Kore Wobble Stools/Seats

http://goo.gl/M7Khsj
($59.99 at Discount School Supply - 14” height)

These are like [Hokki Stools](#) but are cheaper.

Meemic grant

I have already applied for a grant for 7-8 of these. If the grant is approved, I will probably get 4 of these and 4 ball chairs.
Gaiam Kids Balance Ball Chair

Kids will love this healthy and fun alternative to a chair. Whether it's at home or in the classroom this chair will excite your kids to learn and adopt healthy posture. Statistics have shown that kids are able to focus more intently when actively balancing their body on a balance ball.

Meemic grant

I have already applied for a grant for the wobble seats, so if the grant is approved, I will probably get 4 of these and 4 wobble seats.

http://goo.gl/FsRHHS

($59.11 through Amazon - comes with everything in the picture)
● Look around your house and see if you have any of these supplies that you no longer need. (YAY!) Please send me an email or a note letting me know what you have. Keep checking here to see what is still needed.

● Some of these items are cheaper to get at Walmart or IKEA than through DonorsChoose (see below). If you are willing to donate a monetary amount or gift card, then I can purchase them at Walmart or IKEA (tax deductible).

● Click on the Donorschoose.org link to donate money for the bookshelves or the area rug. Once the amount is fulfilled, the supplies will be shipped to me. Share the link with your work or friends to see if they are interested in helping.
Wishful thinking
I would use the small table that I already have.

Depending on the height, students could stand and use the top as a work area.

I would like 2 of them in the ‘espresso’ color.

http://goo.gl/BK71ZA
($37.96 each from Walmart)

I would like 1 to 2 sets (comes with 2) in the ‘turquoise vertical trellis’ color.

http://goo.gl/dSDs5P
($11.34 each at Walmart - set of 2)
children’s multi-purpose lap trays to use as a work area

http://goo.gl/UPkT28
($6.99 each at Hobby Lobby)
comes in pink, purple, orange, yellow, green

I would like as many as I can get.
I like that they stack inside of each other (for storage reasons).
Big Joe Lumin chair

We already have a regular Big Joe chair, so this is not necessary, but I’m sure the students would like another.

The ‘Lumin’ seems to hold a better shape than the regular Big Joe.

Vinyl is better than cloth.

http://goo.gl/U4WVZP
($33.88 at Walmart - but it might be cheaper elsewhere) - black color
two Rubbermaid bin with lids as desktops

They need to have a flat, sturdy lid so that students could write on it.

Two would be all that I would have room for - color does not matter.
Runtz chair

Totally WISHFUL thinking!
https://goo.gl/Q4x5Ek
($116.26 at Officesupply.com)

It has an exercise ball inside of it, but it would be hard to move it around the room without wheels.
standing desk with a fidget bar

Some students in the district have these. Totally WISHFUL thinking!!
http://goo.gl/cugDFE
($264.29 at Buyonlinenow.com)
Node chairs

Totally WISHFUL thinking, but they are cool!!
http://goo.gl/Md1Gsh
($429 each for the chair, wheels, and desktop)