Early Learning Classroom—Hub & Spoke

The Need for Hub & Spoke Classrooms

The hub and spoke classroom features a central gathering place that draws students together for circle-time activities. Learning stations radiate out from the central gathering place, so children can engage in activities that spark their enthusiasm. Low shelving units allow teachers and aides to see all children wherever they are in the room. Individual tables give children the space they need to work with manipulatives and materials.

Requirements for a Great Hub and Spoke Classroom

For **students**, the hub and spoke classroom should incorporate a large, central hub with a cozy atmosphere where they can gather for full class activities. Learning stations should be easily accessible from the central hub and feature storage areas so toys, manipulatives and other items are easy to locate as needed.

For **teachers,** the hub and spoke classroom should maximize the ability to move between the central gathering area and various learning stations to offer guidance to student activity groups. Mobile writing surfaces give teachers a place to write notes or display a storybook to the whole class or to a small group. Furniture should feature a low profile, so teachers can easily observe all students in the room.

For **administrators,** the best hub and spoke classroom should be furnished with items that help 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.

Hub and Spoke Classroom Solutions from School Outfitters

The School Outfitters' team designed an early learning classroom with furnishings that fit the hub and spoke arrangement of a central gathering place and radiating learning stations. The**Group Gathering Area**, **Learning Stations Area**, and **Storage Area** are designed to work together to let students easily engage in full-class activities as well as small group interactions.

The **Group Gathering Area** acts as a central meeting place and focal point of the classroom. It includes:

- **Rug**
- **Magnetic easel**

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

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

The **Learning Stations Area** is comprised of a variety of stations where students can participate in activities or games that focus on subjects ranging from reading and science to imaginative play. This area includes:

- **Art station**
- **Reading station**
- **Science station**
- **Imaginative play station**
- **Collaboration station**

The **art station** gives children a place to explore creativity through the arts. **Easels** keep messes contained as children work with paints or markers. **Stools** offer sturdy and comfortable seating, and the backless design accommodates a variety of seating postures. **Art supply storage** ensures craft supplies are easy to find and access.

The **reading station** provides children with a place to read individually or with a small group. A kid-sized **book display** makes reading material easily accessible, and **soft seating** offers a comfortable place for children to relax with their books. A colorful **rug** brightens up the area and doubles as additional seating space for students who prefer to sit on the floor.

The **science station** is a great place for children to experiment with hands-on STEM projects or engage in sensory play. A sand and water table introduces children to sensory materials without making a mess. The STEM table is perfect for early learning science or robotics projects, and stools keep children comfortable as they work.

The **imaginative play station** encourages children to interact with each other as they invent scenarios to act out. A **dress-up center** lets children use costumes to play as imaginary characters, and a **pretend play center** gives them toys and props to use as they act out their roles.

The collaboration area can be easily configured to accommodate a variety of group projects, games and activities. **Collaborative tables** can be used alone for small groups and easily pushed together for larger ones. **Preschool chairs**

are lightweight and feature a grip handle in the back so children can pick up and move their seating without assistance.

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 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 Hub and Spoke Classroom Solution

School Outfitters makes it simple to outfit a classroom tailored specifically for a hub and spoke layout. 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 early learning classroom. Just give us a call 1-800-260-2776.