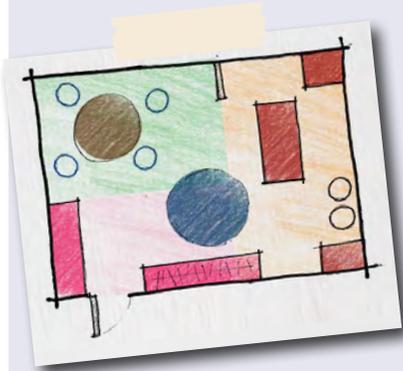# Design the Physical Space

Assess the Spaces

- Complementary areas in proximity while noisy/quiet areas are separated.
- Visual display cues for children.
- Adequate room to move, yet not too much open space.
- Clearly de ned boundaries and pathways.
- Elements that re ect children's cultures and home life in a respectful and authentic way.
- Warm, home-like features (pillows, curtains, plants, student photos, etc.).

Strategize Possibilities

- Brainstorm possible ways to address challenges and limitations.
- Discuss ideas to fully utilize the strengths of the space.
- Experiment, move things around, try out ideas.

Arrange and Modify as Needed

- Small changes, like lowering a shelf or using stop signs on closed centers, can assist children struggling with an aspect of the room.

Design the Classroom Contents

Relevance to Learning

- The items (games, books, art supplies, etc.) give children opportunities to develop skills they are currently working on.
- The items are selected because children's interests will increase participation in speci c learning activities.
- The items relate to current classroom themes or teaching concepts.

Variety and Quantity

- Address di erent developmental levels in your selections.
- Supply the classroom with novel, complementary materials.
- Ensure that there are enough duplicates of the most valued toys.

Integration and Individualizing

- Put related books and writing materials in every center and dolls or puppets in the blocks and library areas.
- The items are chosen because they motivate and engage speci c children and match their interests.

Design the Groupings
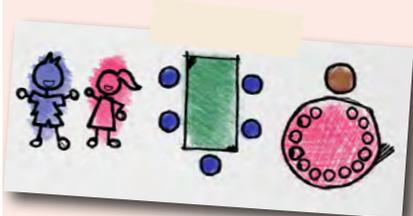
Decide on the Purpose

- Introduce a concept or teach a skill. Relate it to children's goals or a speci c classroom theme.
- Will this activity bene t from lots of back and forth interactions, or is it about building the classroom community?
- Something fun, based on children's interests.

Determine the Composition

- Number of children.
- Matching skilled children with less pro cient ones or clumping similar skill levels.

Develop a Plan

- Designate how the children will be grouped and what activity each group will do with which adult.