Classroom Environment Checklist



When designing a classroom environment, you must take into account stressors that may be present that can impact a child's learning and behaviour. Using the checklist below, identify what you have in place and what you can strive towards to make your classroom as Self-Reg friendly as possible.

Stressor	Classroom as the "Third Teacher" Examples
Visual Clutter	 All surfaces (e.g. desks, shelves) in the classroom are free of excess clutter Walls and bulletin boards are organized with information grouped simply Desk sized copies of tools usually displayed on walls (e.g. number or letter lines) are available to students, and neatly put away when not being used Desk top study carrels to reduce visual input when working at a desk The floor is clear and clean
Lighting	 Lighting is adjusted throughout the day according to the arousal needs of the classroom Natural lighting is maximized where available Fluorescent lighting is minimized where possible Differently lit areas are available for students to access, based on their preferences (a bright area, and a dimmer lit area) Curtains to create a darker area and use of lamps for ambiance
Noise	 Excess noise is reduced where possible (e.g. weather stripping on doors) Reverberation is reduced (e.g. carpets, egg cartons on walls) Noise cancelling headphones or earbuds are available or allowed Electrical humming from lights, heating/cooling vents, electronics, etc. is minimized A non-startling noise used to indicate class change overs or breaks (e.g. a rain stick)
Hydration & Nutrition	 Access to water at desk Regular hydration breaks available throughout the day Healthy meals served from the cafeteria Encourage healthy snacks Spare water and healthy snacks in classroom

Seating Options	 A variety of seating or standing options available (tick all available) Standing desks or surfaces Peddle desks Stationary bike with an easel Bean bag chairs Couch Carpeted open floor space Students are able to use these options throughout the day
Smells	 No perfume Minimize food smells Scent free, or neutral scent cleaning supplies Minimize smoking related scents

Other Considerations		
Micro- environments	A variety of spaces within the classroom which promote/enable up- or down-regulation for students to self-select to meet their Self-Reg needs	
Teaching Students about Stressors	 Students understand how stressors can impact their energy and tension levels Students know what is in place in their environment that help them Up-Regulate Down-Regulate Students know the process, expectations and feel empowered to access any tool they need to support their self-regulation Students know how to safely use all equipment available to them 	