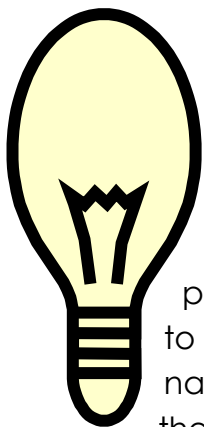


Why Don't You Give it a Try??

I have a very energetic group of kindergarten students this year. Every day during center time, they have been running around the island at the front of my classroom. I had been thinking back and forth about whether I should let them run or not. Eventually I decided that it was driving me crazy and it had to stop! I was talking to the other Kindergarten teacher at our school and she wondered if there was a place that they could run that wouldn't be so disruptive to the classroom. I decided to designate a corner of my room as the running corner. I showed all the kids where it was, and then I demonstrated how if they needed to run, they can go to the running spot and run in place. It has worked really well. When the kids start running around, I remind them about our running spot and they go over and run in place for a moment before returning to play.

-Karen Hadwen



This year, I wanted to work on creating a more welcoming and warm environment in my pre-k classroom. My aim was to create a space that was homier for the students. I bought a bunch of lamps and placed them around my classroom. I no longer use the overhead fluorescent lights to light my classroom. Not only did it positively affect my classroom environment, but I found the students to be calmer and more focussed by the change. The combination of natural light and low lamp light has affected the way the students treat the classroom and each other.

-Jill Gendall