Creating an interactive learning environment

The classroom learning environment is a reflection of a teacher’s beliefs about how children learn.

Coral’s core beliefs are that students learn...

- what they are interested in
- through meaningful interactions with interested others
- in an atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperation

In her presentations Coral explains...

- How to organise the physical environment
  - Space
  - Tables and chairs
  - Shelves and storage
  - Bookshelves and reading areas
  - Word walls (contained in Coral’s book)
  - Computers
  - Data projector and/or Interactive Whiteboard
  - Art materials and areas
  - Hands on materials
  - Construction materials
  - Science, nature and discovery areas
  - Play corner, home corner or dress up areas

- How to create a print-rich environment
  - Setting the scene for reading (contained in Coral’s book)
  - Setting the scene for writing (contained in Coral’s book)

- How to create the social environment
  - Talk
  - Classroom goals
    - Safety
    - Respect
    - Responsibility
    - Co-operation
Establishing classroom behaviours
o Setting the scene for co-operation (contained in Coral’s book)

► Soft toys & backpacks as part of the physical, print and social environment
  o Backpacks to go (contained in Coral’s book)

► How to create the *temporal environment* for your interactive classroom
  o the class timetable
  o the students’ timetable
  o timetable and open-ended tasks