

## Josephine Bell

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Joe is a big advocate for ushering in a culture of change in the classroom. She believes it can be done through collaboration, enabling learning environments to be reflective of a rapidly and constantly changing world, and by facilitating differentiated instruction in the classroom.

As a first step in this direction, Joe set up her classroom environment as a flexible learning space, because she believes that traditional seating was hindering her students' ability to use the classroom in the ways they needed to reach their learning goals.

Students choose where to sit each day—this could be standing at a desk, on the mat with camping desks and chairs, on a bean bag or cushion, at a traditional desk area or a combination of these choices. In reflection, Joe learnt that the students with identified special needs no longer felt 'different' because they were able to choose where to sit.

Joe believes that if there are 33 students in a class, as she has this year, the teacher will have to be flexible in their approach to teach in 33 different ways. She says that while it's not possible to have 33 different individualised education programs, it's also not okay to

teach to the middle and hope for the best. She has learnt that to be an effective educator, she will have to be flexible in both her thoughts and practice.

Joe says that her students inspire her with their natural curiosity. "They guide my teaching practice; we collaborate together; we make mistakes together and we grow together."