

# The Educational Sign Language Interpreter



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# **Who is an Educational Interpreter?**

**A certificated professional trained to facilitate communication between a student who is deaf or hard of hearing, the hearing staff member and students.**

# What Qualifications Are Required of an Educational Interpreter?

**Currently three types of certification in New Jersey**

**1. Standard certification**

**(required by September 2009)**

**2. Emergency Certification**

**(required as of September 1, 2005)**

**3. Substitute Certification**

**(required as of May 1, 2006)**

# Standard Certification Requirements

-  a minimum score of 3.0 on the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA)
-  an associates degree (or higher) or RID or NAD certification
-  15 credits of specialized coursework

## Emergency Certification Requirements

-  a minimum of 3.0 on the performance assessment
-  a high school diploma/GED or higher

## Substitute Certification Requirements

-  a minimum of 3.0 on the performance assessment
-  a high school diploma/GED or higher

# Professional Development Requirements

To maintain certification the educational interpreter must complete **100 hours of professional development every five years**



# The Role of the Interpreter

-  **to facilitate communication**
-  **to voice signed responses of the deaf child**
-  **to provide the deaf child access to all auditory information**

# Sign Language Interpreters are Members of the Educational Team

Interpreters may *clarify* information for the student who is deaf by rephrasing or repeating .

Interpreters are not teachers – and teachers are not interpreters.

**Caution: *If the child needs continuous clarification, the IEP team needs to be informed.***

# Group and Classroom Dynamics

■ adjustment for classroom teacher

■ adjustment for students



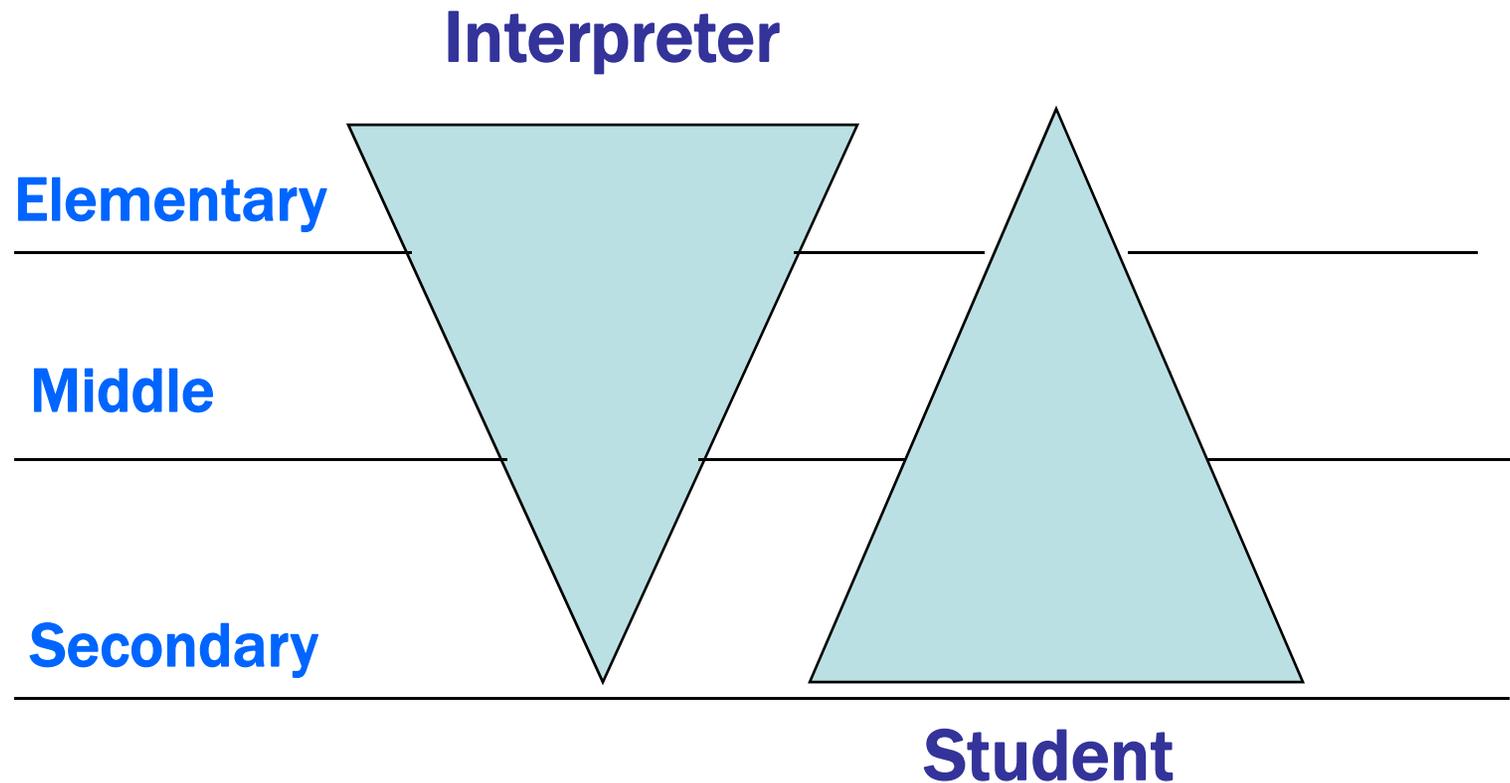
## Frequently Asked Questions

- ❏ **What should the teacher do if the student is not watching the interpreter or teacher?**
  
- ❏ **Is the interpreter a disciplinarian for the deaf children?**



- 🗨️ If I understand the deaf child's speech and he or she understands me when I talk – is an educational interpreter necessary?**
- 🗨️ Can I communicate directly with the deaf child?**
- 🗨️ Do deaf children automatically know how to use an interpreter?**
- 🗨️ Why am I talking but the interpreter is not signing?**
- 🗨️ Is the interpreter signing everything I say?**

# Inverted Pyramid of Responsibility\*



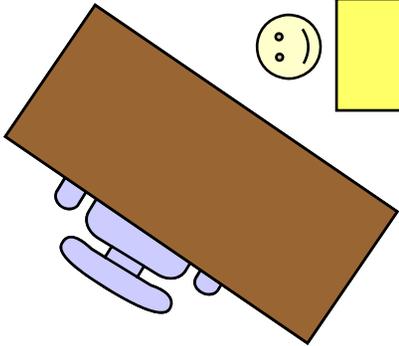
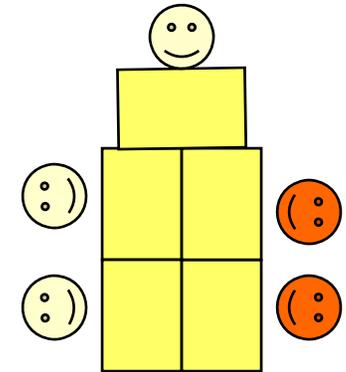
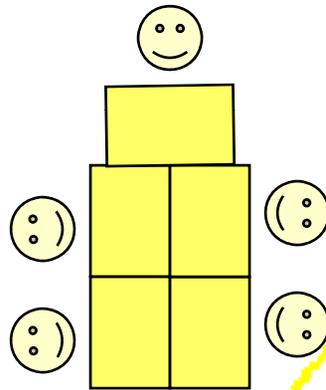
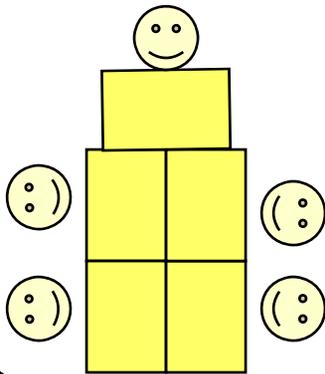
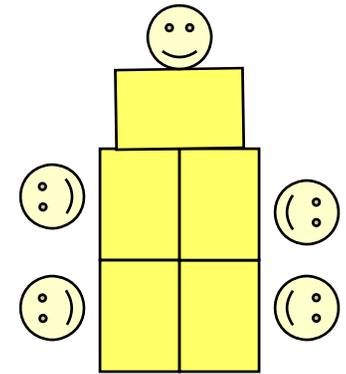
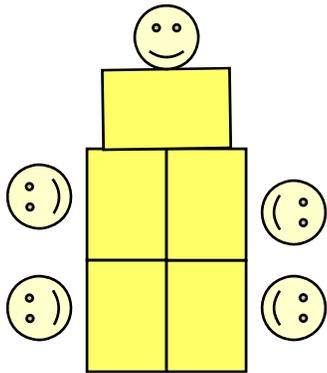
\*From Handbook for Personnel Serving Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing; Louisiana Department of Education

# Classroom Environment:

preferential seating

away from noise sources

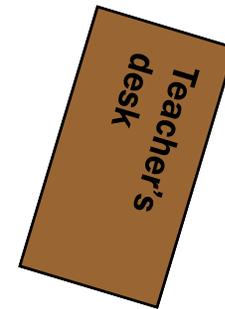
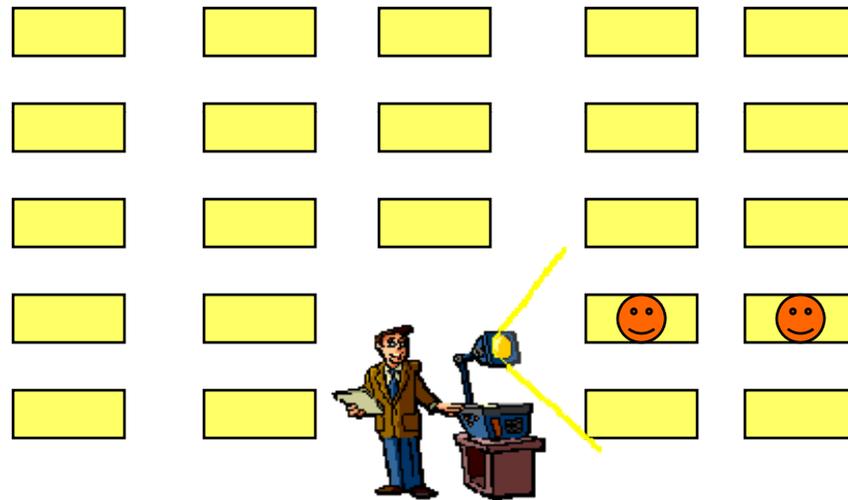
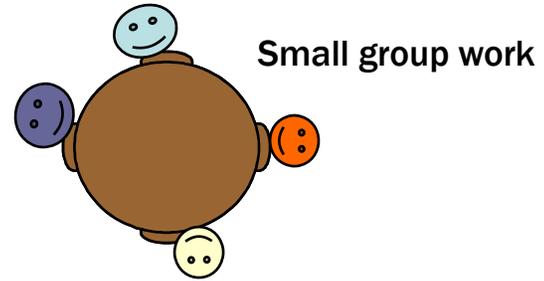
full view of the class



board

Key:  students  Students with hearing loss  interpreter

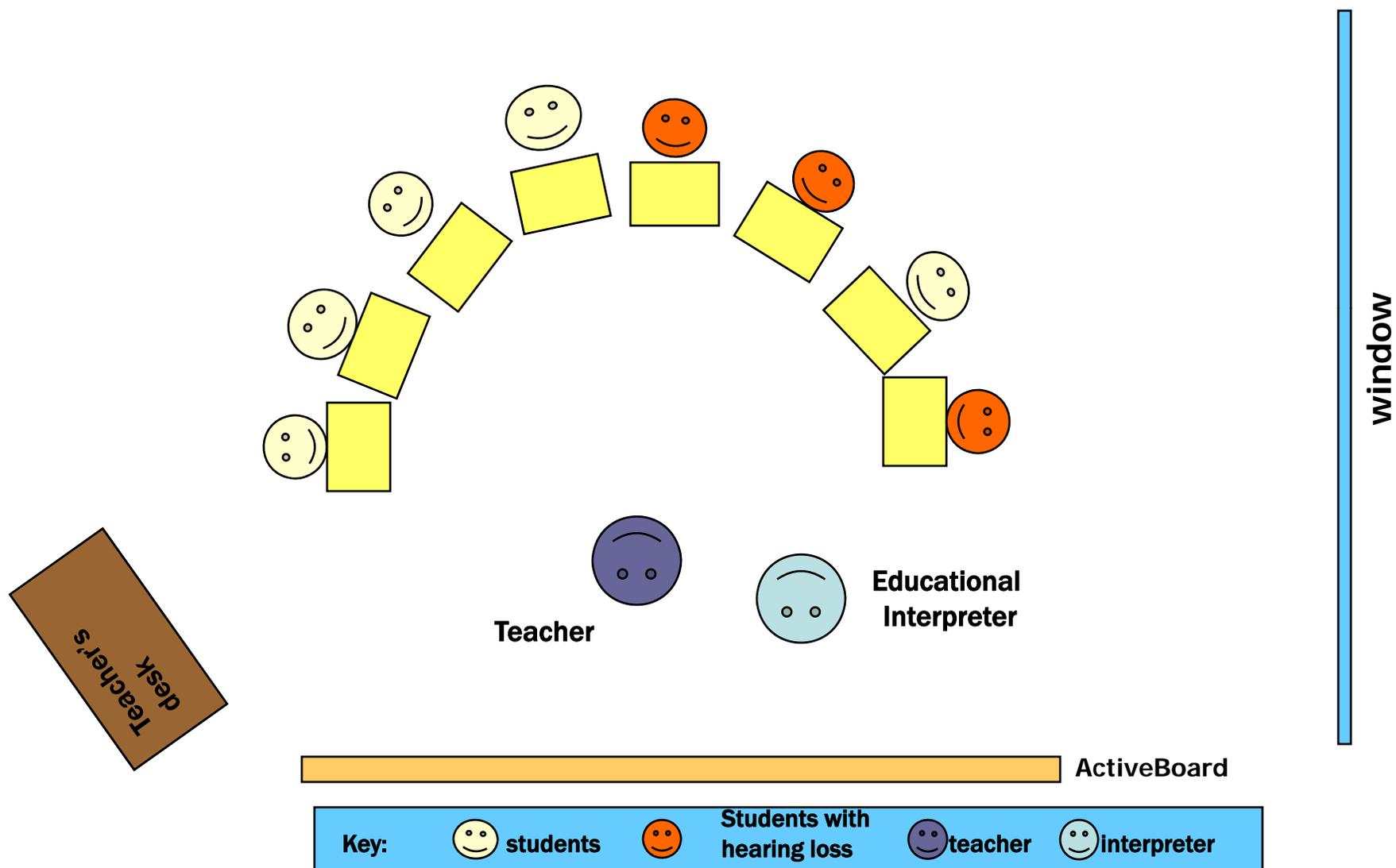
# Classroom with rows and small group instruction



board

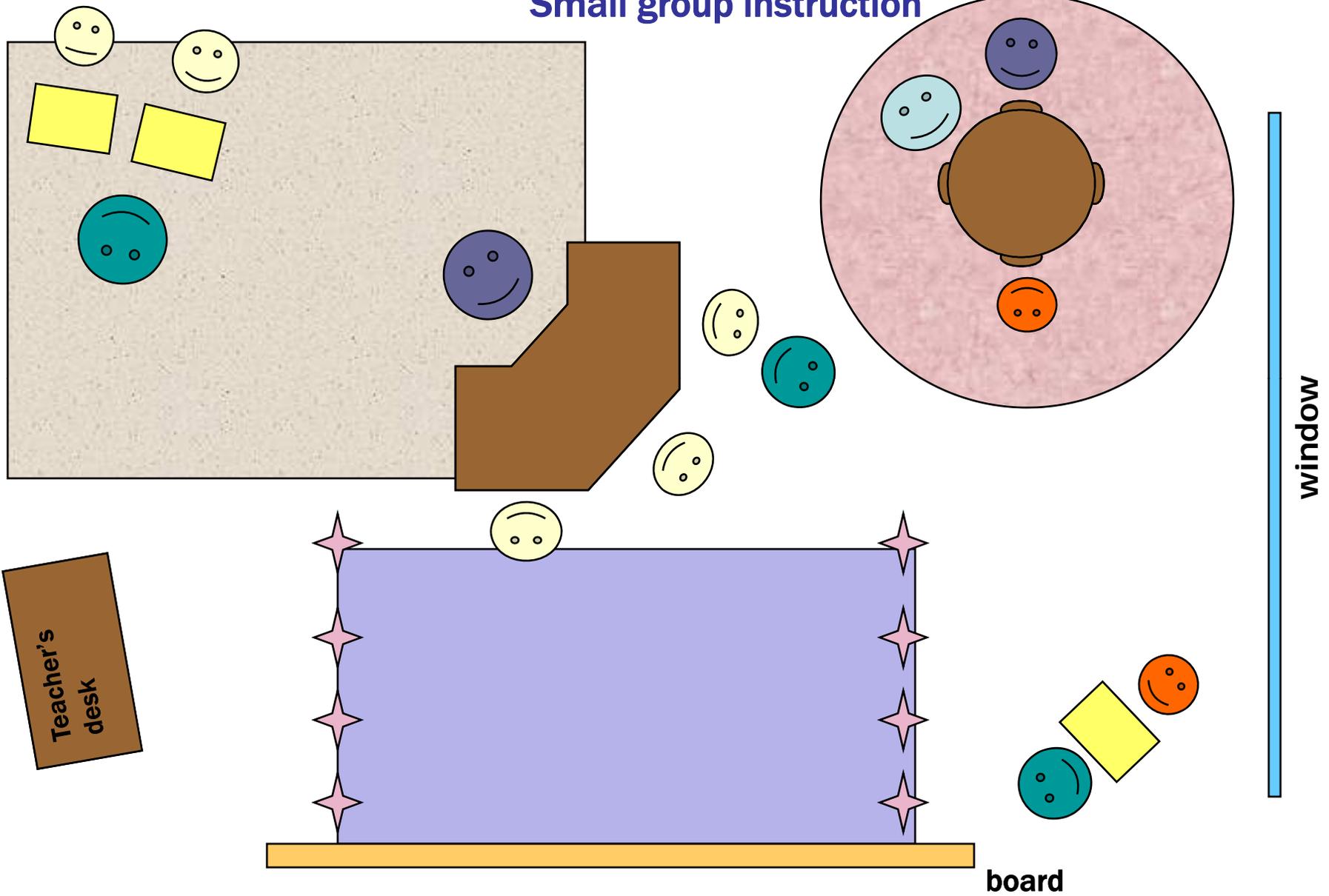
Key: students Students with hearing loss teacher interpreters

# Classroom designed for students with hearing loss



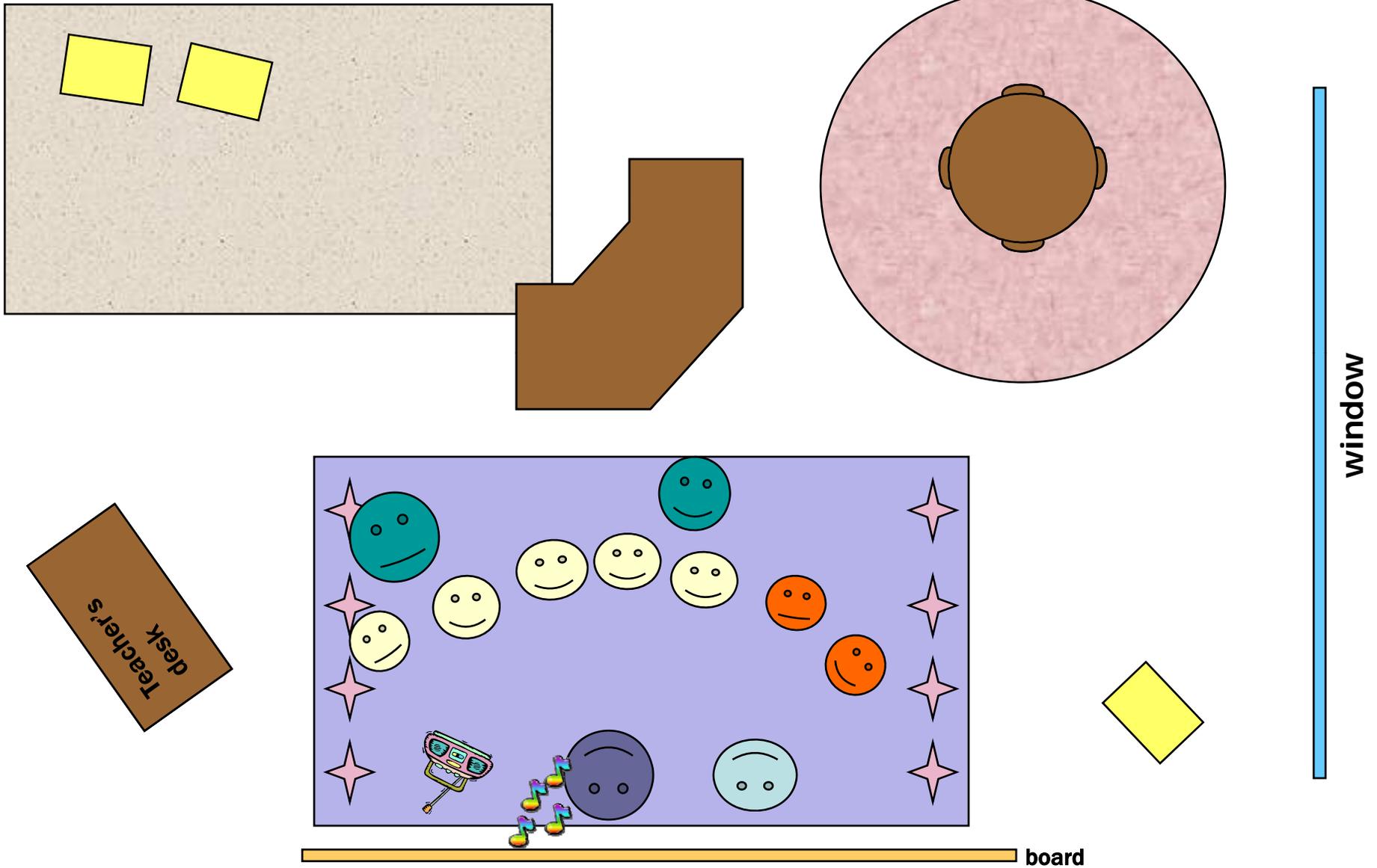
# Classroom for Students with Special needs

## Small group instruction



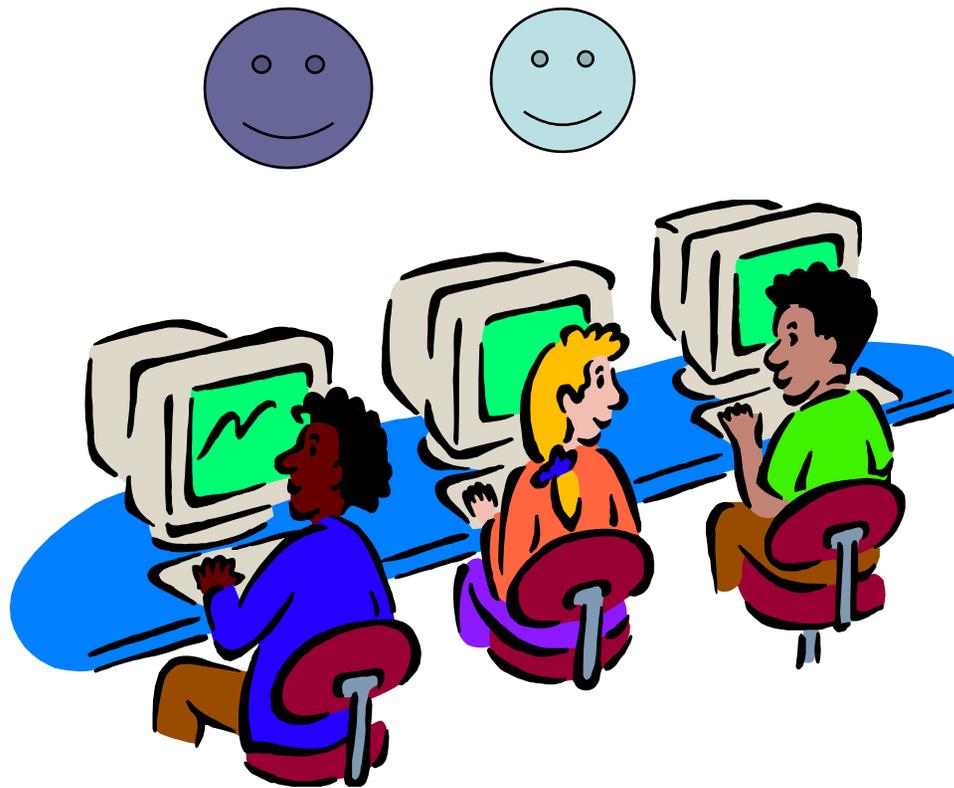
Key: students Students with hearing loss teachers interpreter paraprofessional

# Circle or music time



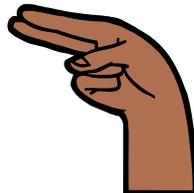
Key: students Students with hearing loss teacher interpreter paraprofessionals

# computer class



Key:  teacher  interpreter

## Questions?



Thank You