Learning space layout:
Sousa Elementary School's Multi-age team

At Sousa Elementary School in Mesa, Arizona, an educator team consisting of one lead teacher, three certified teachers, one special educator and three MLFTC residents supports a multi-age group of 104 first and second graders. The team is also joined by four specials teachers, a retired teacher who assists with reading assessment and instruction, and a Title I instructional assistant who supports personalized literacy instruction. Here is how they designed their learning space.
Sousa’s multi-age learning spaces include four connected classrooms and the Explore Factory, a larger room connected through an exterior breezeway.

**Explore Factory**

During Explore Factory, students build agency in their own learning by brainstorming topics that interest them, asking a question about that topic, engaging in research and testing responses to their question, and presenting their findings to their peers. The team has set aside a space especially for this work.

**Variety of seating options**

Students have a variety of seating options: larger tables, individual desks, low desks with floor seating, couches, chairs, stools, rugs and even a tent. Students typically select their own seats based upon the type of work they are doing (e.g., independent, small group), and educators regularly reconfigure the space according to the requirements of specific learning activities.