



## Research Questions

1. What are teachers' impressions of flexible seating before and after implementation?

Before the implementation of flexible seating, teachers loved the idea of a classroom arrangement that they believed would help improve student learning and focus. After implementation, teachers realized that organization, structure, and rules were necessities in order for flexible seating to work. Once these structures were set in place, teachers were happy to see an increase in student learning, collaboration, and engagement.

2. What are teachers' perspectives of the impacts of flexible seating on students' learning and behaviors?

Teachers' perspectives of the impacts of flexible seating were both positive and negative, depending on the implementation of the flexible seating.

Name and Age	Birthplace / Current Residence	College Degrees	Years in Ed.
Mrs. Smith 34	Knox County / Knox County	Bachelor's degree in Psychology & Master's degree in Elementary Education K-6	13
Mrs. Flowers 56	Lived all over the US / Knox County	Bachelor's degree in Retail and Marketing & Master's degree in Early Childhood Education	16
Mrs. Paisley 45	Knox County / Knox County	Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction	12

## Teachers' Views on Flexible Seating in Grade 2

1. Introduction: This study seeks to understand the theory behind flexible seating and how it impacts students' learning and behaviors.

- I conducted an interpretive case study where I interviewed, observed, and collected documents from a suburban Tennessee school.*
- Participants included three second grade teachers at a suburban Tennessee school that have utilized flexible seating for more than three years.*

2. Results obtained: Positive and Negative Effects of Flexible Seating

*Benefits of Flexible Seating include:*

- Improved Student Responsibility*
- Increased Engagement*
- Increased Movement*
- Freedom of Choice*
- Peer Interaction*

*Negative Effects of Flexible Seating:*

- Chaos*
- Teacher rules and guidelines must be put into place beforehand.*
- Students must have a clear understanding of expectations.*

3. Conclusion and recommendations:

- Flexible seating should be utilized in elementary classrooms when the goal is student centered instruction, fostering peer interaction.*
- Flexible seating increases student responsibility by giving children freedom of choice.*
- Through an increase of movement, flexible seating helps improve student engagement.*
- Teachers should have a clear understanding of their purpose for doing flexible seating.*
- All rules and expectations have to be set in place before the implementation of flexible seating in order to prevent chaos and confusion in the classroom.*

4. Acknowledgment of support:

- Thank you, Dr. Janet Isbell, for your support and guidance throughout this process.*
- I also want to thank Dr. Holly Anthony for providing insight as I developed my findings.*



## Interpretive Case Study

### Results:

- Increase in Student Responsibility
- Increased Engagement
- Increased Movement
- Freedom of Choice
- Peer Interaction

### Possible Negative Outcomes:

- Chaos
- No clear understanding of the rules or expectations behind the use of flexible seating in the classroom.



Participant Group and Date	No. of Children	Age of Children	Length of Time Observed
Mrs. Smith's 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade October 15, 2019	20	7-8 years old	4 hours
Mrs. Flowers' 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade October 15, 2019	21	7-8 years old	2.5 hours
Mrs. Paisley's 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade October 16, 2019	23	7-8 years old	5.5 hours