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NEWSLETTER

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## How the Classroom Environment Affects Student Creativity

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CREATIVITY is counted as “the central among core competences” by the education research community. According to the investment theory of creativity, a favorable environment is a vital factor in human creativity development. In the educational setting, the classroom environment plays a pivotal role in fostering the students’ creativity. Based on data from a survey of creative behavior of primary school students in Beijing City, this study seeks to explore the relationships between the classroom environment and student creativity development, as well as influencing factors for and heterogeneity in the relationships, using a regression model and a moderated mediation model.

### Research Findings:

- Positive teacher-student relationships, healthy peer relationships, motivational classroom instruction, active classroom engagement, teacher equal attention, and cooperative learning are the six core elements in the classroom environment that have significantly positive effects on student creative mentalities and creative qualities.
- Creative self-efficacy mediates the relationships between the classroom environment and student creative mentalities and creative qualities.
- There is heterogeneity in the relationship between the classroom environment and creativity among students from distinct socioeconomic backgrounds. A classroom environment with healthy peer relationships, active student engagement, and cooperative learning has a greater positive impact on creativity development of high -socioeconomic-status (SES) students. Creative self-efficacy exhibits a significantly greater mediating effect among high-SES students than low-SES ones.
- Suggestions:
- Enhance the teachers’ creative instruction skills and interpersonal communication ability to develop a student-centered, active classroom environment for assisting student creativity development.
- Create a climate of active learning in the classroom to boost students’ creative self-efficacy.

- Develop thorough knowledge of the psychology and learning states of low-SES students as well as their interests and strengths so as to provide them with tailored assistance in creativity development.

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