Welcome to the STICKS Classroom Ecology module. This module is one in the series of online professional development modules designed to support teachers teaching in inclusive classrooms. This module provides academic and management strategies for all students, including those with problem behaviors.
**Classroom Ecology**

**Physical Environment** is comprised of the furniture and other tangible materials within and surrounding the classroom.

**Classroom Organization** includes the layout, use, and placement of all existing resources.

**Classroom Rules and Expectations** are explicit statements of how students are required to operationalize teacher expectations.

**Routines** are a set of sequential behaviors, designed by adults and performed independently by students, that maximize classroom structure and predictability.

**Environmental Intangibles** are human behaviors, characteristics, and values that contribute to the overall climate of a classroom.
Lighting and Windows

Lighting is a key environmental component for successful learning.

Classroom lighting options include:

• Natural light (windows, skylights)

• Overhead lights

• Lamps

Research Says: Lighting is one of the factors that can influence student behavior and discipline referrals (McGowen, 2007).
Room Temperature

Classrooms that are uncomfortably warm or cool inhibit optimal learning and may adversely affect students’ ability to meet behavioral expectations.

Research Says: When the body is too hot or too cold, the brain is constantly reminding the body to do something about it. This makes it difficult for the student to focus (Pytel, 2006).