The physical environment in Mrs. Bowser’s fourth grade classroom is one different than any classroom that I have experienced before. The room design is an “open-concept” design. There is no door to the room, and a few of the walls are non permanent walls. From the classroom, there is a clear view out into the hallway as well as into the neighboring classroom. I find this classroom design to be an awkward design that hinders children’s learning. Noise and movement from the hallway and the other classroom catch the student’s (and my) attention and distract them from their learning. While this classroom style keeps kids from feeling boxed in, it does not provide the type of atmosphere that is needed to promote productive learning.

Another aspect of the classroom that isn’t quite my taste in classroom setup is that there is no cohesive seating arrangement. There is a large U shaped group that surrounds a table, there is a small group seating area, there is a row of three students, and there are also desks placed individually around the room. I found it rather odd that the room setup is so random. It makes the room look more cluttered and disorganized than it really is.

One of the positive things about the classroom is the decorations that Mrs. Bowser’s classroom displays. The walls are covered by colorful educational posters. The bright, bold colors make the room more inviting and cheerful. The posters on the walls display educational topics that help the students.
The physical classroom setting is not what I would choose for my own personal classroom. I would prefer to have a more organized and unified classroom setting. Although it is not the type of classroom I would choose, it seems to work ok for Mrs. Bowser’s class.

Behavior Observation

Mrs. Bowser’s discipline system for the classroom is a very lax system. She has set up a system where a student who misbehaves has to move their magnetic name tag on the board down the chart. Each day they start out at an A. If they get in trouble they move their name to a warning which is an A minus. The punishments progress from a “time out” in the class during recess first, having to write a letter to the principal and loss of the whole recess second, a call home third, and being sent to the principal last. These punishments are not followed through with. Even Mrs. Bowser admits that she does not follow through with her assigned punishments. It seems that just having to move their name on the board is enough of a deterrent to keep the kids in line. They seem really upset to have to move their name even with no punishment associated with it.

Overall, the children behave relatively well. There isn’t often a situation where Mrs. Bowser has to use her discipline system. The most common reason for the students to have to move their name is forgetting to bring their homework back to school. The other thing that the students have trouble with is staying quiet after transitional times or after having an indoor recess.
Although the class has few behavioral problems, I think that if Mrs. Bowser is going to have the classroom punishments posted in the room, then I think that they should be followed more closely so that the students will take her more seriously or change the rules so that they more closely fit what she wants them to be.

**Human Observation**

The interactions between the students in Mrs. Bowser’s class are for the most part cooperative and harmonious. Unfortunately, not all students get along quiet this well. One of the biggest problems in the interactions of the students is the negative relationship between Terry, Quaosha, and Jordan. Terry is a slow learner and for parts of the day, he is pulled out of the class to work in a different room. He is very hard to keep motivated and on topic, and suffers from depression. Quaosha and Jordan seem to get pleasure from hurting Terry’s feelings. Wednesday they decided to write him a fake love note from a girl in the fifth grade. When he found it at his desk, he was obviously excited and felt special because he was getting attention from someone.

Unfortunately, the intent behind the letter they wrote was to make fun of him. I was disappointed that they would be so cruel to him for their own entertainment. When one student pointed out to Terry that the note was a fake and that Jordan and Quaosha had written it “just to mess with him” he was crushed. The rest of the day Terry was upset, withdrawn, and impossible to keep on task. He was too consumed with the note to focus on anything else. The prank that they pulled kept him from being productive the whole rest of the day.
The interactions between Mrs. Bowser and her students are interesting to watch. There is no specific student that her interactions stand out in my mind. She treats them for the most part, pretty equally. She takes interest in each child’s life and makes a point throughout the day to ask the children about their evening or weekend. The students really seem to connect well with her and seem comfortable around her. She and her class appear to fit together well.