

EVERYDAY FENG SHUI
Feng Shui by Maria
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School in Session? Experience Success with the Feng Shui Metal Element

Are you looking for your children to have a successful school year, to increase their creativity, and focus? Look no further than the Feng Shui Metal element.

The Feng Shui elements: Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal and Water are considered the building blocks of everything physical on earth. Each has its own effect and purpose in the environment, and consequentially on your life.

The Feng Shui Metal element relates to productivity, organization, logic, and clarity. It helps with planning and completing projects and focusing your mind.

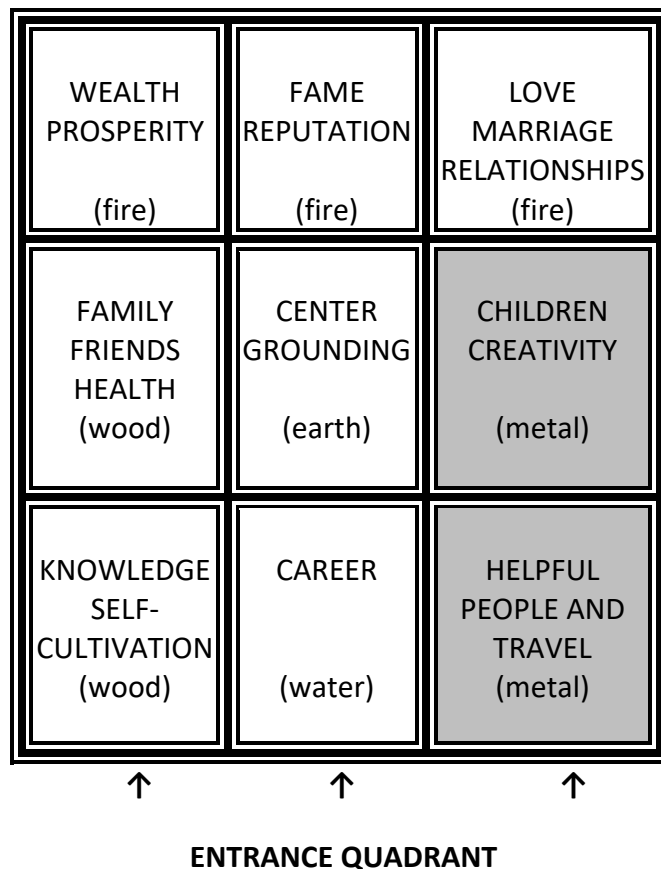
Enhancing the Metal element in your home can help your children, as well as yourself, simplify your lives, access creative thinking, and take advantage of new opportunities coming your way. It is also known for calling in help from supportive people in your life. This can be especially true for your child's teachers in this new school year.

Metal is represented by the minerals in the earth, such as all types of metals, all rocks, stones and gemstones, the white, grey and light pastel color spectrum, the shapes of the circle, oval and arch.

Metal and the Bagua

The Feng Shui Bagua Map, is represented as a grid of nine sectors. The Bagua comes from the Chinese philosophy, "The I Ching," and literally means "eight trigrams, with the center for grounding and centering." Each sector of the Bagua is represented by one of the elements. The areas governed by the Metal element are Children and Creativity, and Helpful People and Travel. These areas are in the right middle side and front right corner of your home or business.

Although these two areas of your home are governed by the metal element, adding a bit of metal to all areas of your home creates a nice balance.



The Children and Creativity area is associated with the qualities of pleasure, generosity, and encouragement. Every home has within it an area for fun, hobbies, special interests, and childlike qualities; an area where the “whimsical” is displayed and celebrated. This area, known as the Children and Creativity area encourages us to fully express ourselves to achieve joy and satisfaction. Parents can also experience this energizing satisfaction while encouraging their children to grow, learn and explore through creative expression. This is an excellent location for a child’s room, desk area, or craft room.

Inside enhancements for the Children and Creativity area:

- Colors white or pastel. (White creates a blank canvas that represents new beginnings, which is perfect for the new school year.)
- Things made of metal, such as furniture, lamps, candle holders, frames, figurines, jewelry. (Metallic colors represent success, taking action, and achievement.)
- Circular shapes
- Art depicting children or made by children
- Supplies used for creating things, such as art and craft materials, and school supplies
- Whimsical, playful, and colorful items, toys, stuffed animals
- Quotes, affirmations and sayings pertaining to Children and Creativity, especially motivational saying about success in school

The Helpful People and Travel area of your home or business is associated with synchronicity, inspiration and confidence. When everything is aligned, people and places give us the inspiration and guidance we need. This is total synchronicity... everything falling into place! The Metal element helps you find solutions to your problems, and to attract supportive people. It is also associated with the love and ability to travel; enhance this area and your synchronicity will help clear the way to travel to locations of your dreams.

Inside enhancements for the Helpful People and Travel area:

- Colors white, grey. (Gray is the color of knowledge and perception. It represents a stabilizing energy associated with wisdom.)
- Circular shapes
- Things made of metal, such as furniture, lamps, candle holders, frames, figurines, jewelry
- Art pertaining to spiritual guides, and/or mentors or helpful people
- Natural stones or representation of natural stones such as pictures of grey mountains
- Special places where you have traveled or want to travel
- Quotes, affirmations and sayings pertaining to Helpful People and Travel

A Missing Helpful People and Travel corner:

In Feng Shui it is important that the four corners of your home are inside the Bagua, but in Western homes some of these corners are missing. If your Helpful People and Travel area is missing from your floor plan, you can anchor the area by doing one or a combination of the following cures: Anchor the missing area structurally using the metal element wherever possible, such as building a trellis or deck, planting flowers in a flower garden or planter boxes in white, adding a large stone statue of a spiritual guide or placing a large rock on the corner, or a metal seating area. If the area outside is not accessible, you can symbolically anchor from the inside, and push the walls back, by hanging a 30 mm round faceted crystal, placing a mirror, and/or a picture representing helpful people or travel on the inside wall adjacent to the missing area.

Affirmations and Inner Work:

Remember that in Feng Shui, intent plays a significant role in enhancing any area of your home or business. That's why all enhancements need to be made with intentionality and written or stated as if they already happened. Examples of affirmations for the Children and Creativity area: *"My children are experiencing success at school."* Examples of affirmations for the Helpful People and Travel area: *"My children's teachers are in tune with their needs and helping them succeed, "or" I am freely traveling and enriching my life, meeting new people, and learning from new cultures."*

Metal energy gives you the power to create structure, boundaries, and take control of your life. As school begins prepare your children to enhance their productivity, mental acuity and creativity. Get the clarity you need in your life. Bring the Metal Element into your home and set yourself, and your children up for success.

Feng Shui at Work:

I was asked to do a home consultation at the home of a couple who were concerned about their son's lack of energy and motivation at school. When asked what areas of their home they liked the least, they indicated the bedrooms at the right. When we walked through the room in the Children and Creativity area, I noticed it was being used for storage, while their son's room, in the Knowledge and Self Cultivation area was messy and a drain on their peace of mind. I recommended moving their son's bedroom to the Children and Creativity area, decluttering the room, hanging a crystal to move the energy, and adding a white desk facing the door, a metal bookcase for his books and supplies, a whiteboard calendar for his appointments and assignments, and a white bedspread with grey accents. The son became excited about hanging inspirational saying, pictures of mountains, and posters signifying success. (Metal for renewed energy.) My clients then decluttered and enhanced the Knowledge and Self Cultivation with blues, greens, and calm wooded scenes. (Wood element area) She cleared a lot of her storage items and created a sewing room for herself. The refocusing of their energies to clear, and enhance the rooms revitalized them. Their son loves his room and is succeeding at school, and she is able to get back to the sewing she loves. A Feng Shui win-win!

I did a consultation at a large financial office. My client has just moved to the area and was anxious to build his team. Outside his office were several empty cubicles, awaiting his new staff, all these as well as his office were vacant canvases. Such fun!!! You entered his office through the Helpful People area, so we worked with the wall behind the door. Upon my recommendation, he installed a metal filing organizer on the wall in this area and filled it with grey file folders (one for each of the 8 he was to hire). He placed a white label on each and filled them with information regarding the organization. He had already hired one so he included that one, placing her name on the label. He also included folders filled with business cards of mentors and recruiting agencies. I also advised him to place an affirmation in the files such as "I have the best, most diverse and productive team ever." He has been on a hiring spree since the consultation and has over half of his team hired. He is on his way!!!

For questions or home consultations email at mtmccull@aol.com and put "Feng Shui" on the subject line, or visit my website at www.fengshuibymaria.com, (where you can read past columns), or Facebook "Feng Shui by Maria", where I post pictures as examples to enhancements.

* **Check out my BLOG** – Just go to the website and click on "Blog": You can view many pictures and, I will respond to your questions quickly.

Until then...Blessings!

Maria McCullough is the owner / founder of **Feng Shui by Maria** (www.fengshuibymaria.com) and is a speaker and educator with over 20 years of experience. She specializes in residential, landscape and business consultations. She is a graduate of the Western School of Feng Shui and has personally trained with Terah Kathryn Collins, founder of the Western School of Feng Shui, specializing in Essential Feng Shui® and author of numerous books including "The Western Guide to Feng Shui."