

The Classroom Environment

Focus

This observation focuses on the learning environment in the classroom.

Questions and Prompts:

1. How does the teacher communicate expectations to students?
2. Are there basic classroom rules? Were you informed of rules, routines, and procedures as a visitor to the classroom? How? Are rules, expectations, or classroom procedures posted?
3. Are the rules easily followed by students? What happens if rules are violated? Are consequences obvious or subtle?
4. Describe routines or procedures that contribute toward an effective classroom environment? Are there routines or procedures that are not effective? Give examples.
5. How do students interact with each other? Describe. Is it respectful?
6. How do students interact with the teacher and other adults in the classroom? Is this the same or different than how they interact with their classmates?
7. What did you learn about effective classroom management? What ideas will you take with you? What would you do differently in your own classroom?
8. What methods or techniques does the teacher use to keep students on task?