

Observing the Classroom Environment: Guiding Questions

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

How is seating arranged?
Where do students put their stuff?
What's on the walls?
Do students have the opportunity to choose where they want to be?
How much movement is allowed?
Where are the traffic paths?
What signs of ownership are evident?
Do students have places to go and things to do when they've finished their assignments?
Are resources and materials accessible to students?
Where is the teacher's desk?

SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

How does your teacher...
 get the class' attention?
 transition from one activity to another?
 pass out and collect materials?
 move students around the school?

How does your teacher deal with...
 a disruptive student?
 an altercation between students?
 rudeness?
 off-task behavior?
 students in the wrong place?
 students mishandling materials?

ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

What types of work are students doing?
What are the expectations for quality and understanding of work?
How is instructional time being utilized?