



Features to Observe in a Direct Instruction (DI) Classroom

School _____ Teacher _____
Subject _____ Date _____

During your observation of the lesson, watch for the following:

Setting:

One feature of a Direct Instruction classroom is a focus on efficiency by maximizing instructional time. Having clear routines and procedures allows more focused time for learning. Utilizing a positive motivational system also increases student engagement and time on task.

- ____ Transitions are smooth and efficient.
- ____ Instructor and student materials are organized and accessible.
- ____ Students are seated so instructor can see each student clearly and students can see instructional material.
- ____ Students are engaged in the designated activity.
- ____ Students are on task and focused.
- ____ Positive motivational systems are in use.

Academic:

Direct Instruction design features require mastery of content. Choral responding is utilized so that all students have an opportunity to respond. Fast pacing increases opportunities to respond. Since only 10-15% of each lesson is new material, students should be able to master the material easily if they are placed properly. An important way students demonstrate mastery is through individual turns.

- ____ Students are answering with choral response and on signal.
- ____ Students are answering correctly most of the time.
- ____ Instructor corrects errors immediately and task is repeated.
- ____ Students demonstrate a high level of mastery on individual turns.
- ____ Students hear frequently what is going well (i.e., praise for correct answers, effective point system is used).

Independent Work:

To reinforce content that is covered in the lesson and to ensure retention of previously taught material, students complete work independently. All material presented as independent work has been taught.

- ____ Students appear to understand the task and are working independently.
- ____ Students are able to complete the work with a high level of mastery.
- ____ Instructor is monitoring independent seatwork.
- ____ Student work has been checked and corrected.

Comments and questions:
