
Take a Learning Snapshot

A Learning Snapshot is a technique that involves focusing on one learning skill, technique, or interaction during a five to ten minute visit to a classroom.

Before the Visit

For each session there is one Learning Snapshot Question that pertains to a skill, technique, or interaction along with a “What to Look For” guide that you can use to quickly see if the learning goal is being met. The “What to Look For” guide ends with a question that will help you evaluate *how* the goal is being met.

During the Visit

Visit each classroom with a camera and/or tape recorder. Based on the chosen Learning Snapshot Question, observe how a skill, technique, or interaction is being handled in the classroom. Film or record student and teacher-student interactions, group discussions, oral or written work. Then mark off what you see on your “What to Look For” guide.

After the Visit

Using the “What to Look For” guide and the photos taken during a visit, meet with the teacher to discuss your observations.

Alternatives:

In addition to the completed “What to Look For” guide, bring pictures or audio-tapes to the teacher conference. The teacher should have available any student work the principal has flagged.

As a substitute for a camera or tape recorder, use sticky notes to flag any student work that seems to particularly demonstrate a learning goal is being met.