

LEARNING CLIMATE

A. DEFINITION:

Learning Climate is the tone or atmosphere of the teaching setting (including whether it is stimulating and whether learners can comfortably identify and address their limitations).

B. EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE

C. TIMING (initial, ongoing)

D. KEY COMPONENTS & SPECIFIC TEACHING BEHAVIORS

1. STIMULATION

TEACHING BEHAVIORS:

- show enthusiasm for topic and for learners
- show interest through body language
- use animated voice
- provide conducive physical environment

2. LEARNER INVOLVEMENT

TEACHING BEHAVIORS:

- look at learners
- listen to learners
- encourage learners to participate
- avoid monopolizing discussion

3. RESPECT AND COMFORT

TEACHING BEHAVIORS:

- use learners' names
- acknowledge learners' problems/situation
- invite learners to express opinions
- state respect for divergent opinions
- avoid ridicule, intimidation, or interruption

4. ADMISSION OF LIMITATIONS

TEACHING BEHAVIORS:

- acknowledge learner limitations
- invite learners to bring up problems
- admit own errors or limitations
- avoid being dogmatic

CONTROL OF SESSION

A. DEFINITION:

Control of Session is the manner in which the teaching interaction is focused and paced as influenced by the teacher's leadership style.

B. EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE

C. KEY COMPONENTS & SPECIFIC TEACHING BEHAVIORS

1. LEADERSHIP STYLE

- a. TYPES:
- 1) directive:
teacher takes dominant role in deciding what to do, how and when
 - 2) democratic:
teacher collaborates with learners in deciding what should be done
 - 3) non-directive:
teacher allows the session to drive itself
- b. VARIABLES INFLUENCING CHOICE
(variation in learner needs, amount/type of content, phase of group process, personality style, observations of session)

TEACHING BEHAVIOR:

- adapt leadership style to educational purpose

2. FOCUS OF SESSION

TEACHING BEHAVIORS:

- set an agenda
- discourage external interruptions
- avoid digressions, keep on topic
- have learners help focus session

3. PACE OF SESSION

TEACHING BEHAVIORS:

- call attention to time
- speed up or slow down discussion
- cover all scheduled topics
- have learners help pace session