

Teaching Tips

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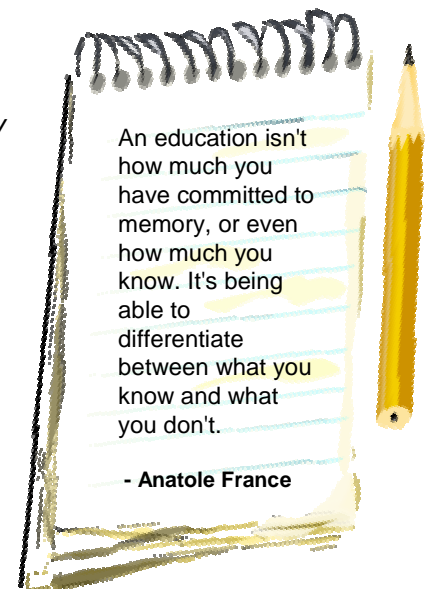
Department of Family & Social Medicine Faculty Development E-Newsletter



Microskills for Students: Twelve Tips for Improving Learning in the Ambulatory Setting

The "Microskills Approach" is designed to optimize student precepting encounters by encouraging students to share responsibility for their education and training. Below are 12 tips to prepare students for their community-based ambulatory experiences.

1. Ask students to **identify clinical goals** and incorporate them into precepting encounters.
2. Ask students to describe their **clinical background**, then set expectations based on the student's experience.
3. Provide an **orientation** to the clinical site.
4. Review **patient schedule** to select cases that meet learning goals.
5. Discuss and share effective ways for **reviewing a chart**.
6. Ask students to **share their hypotheses**; this helps you assess how they think through problems.
7. Encourage students to **explain the rationale for their diagnosis** to assess critical thinking and address faulty reasoning.
8. Support students in **self-assessment**.
9. Show students you are available to give **feedback**. It is OK for them to ask for it.
10. Explain that **process-oriented questions** are more effective than strict knowledge questions (see Table 1 in Lipsky, 1999 for examples)
11. Encourage **reflection**.
12. Have students identify topics for **additional exploration** and create a plan to learn more about them.



References / Resources:

Lipsky M, Taylor C, Schnuth R. (1999). Microskills for students: Twelve tips for improving learning in the ambulatory setting. *Medical Teacher*, 5, 469-472.

Smith, C. & Irby, D.M. (1997). The role of experience and reflection in ambulatory care education. *Academic Medicine*, 72, 32-35.

Sachdeva, AK. (1996). Use of effective feedback to facilitate adult learning. *Journal of Cancer Education*, 11, 106-118.

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Teaching Tips is a monthly e-newsletter for Faculty, Residents, and Community Preceptors sponsored by the DFSM Faculty Development Fellowship at Montefiore Medical Center. *Teaching Tips* will include practical teaching techniques for busy physicians who want to enhance teaching and learning at their clinical practices. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for future topics for *Teaching Tips* please contact Ellen Tattelman at etattelm@montefiore.org, Jennifer Purcell at jennifer.purcell@einstein.yu.edu or Stacia Maher at smaher@montefiore.org.