

Teaching Active Listening

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A **teacher** (an **educator**) is a person who helps others to acquire knowledge, competences or values.

The way a teacher promotes the course she/he is teaching affects how much benefit the student will get out of the subject matter.

The three most important aspects of teacher enthusiasm are:

- enthusiasm about teaching,
- enthusiasm about the students, and
- enthusiasm about the subject matter.

A teacher must enjoy teaching. If they do not enjoy what they are doing, the students will be able to tell. The teacher also needs to be enthusiastic about the subject matter she/he is teaching. A spark in the teacher may create a spark of excitement in the student as well. An enthusiastic teacher has the ability to be very influential in the student's life.

It has been found that teachers who showed enthusiasm towards the course materials and students, can create a positive learning experience [1]. These teachers do not teach by rote but attempt to find new invigoration for the course materials on a daily basis [2].

Like many other people based professions, communications skills are essential to medical practice also. The ability to communicate effectively is a core competency for medical practitioners [3].

Better communication between doctor and patient builds confidence, improves compliance, and reduces mistakes and mishaps, thereby reducing malpractice suits [4].

Active listening, as a part of communication between doctor and patient, is one of the most important skills one can have.

Teaching and practicing it, isn't typically taught in a textbook.

In order to bring this skill closer to our listeners, I made this short animated video with my colleague Dr Riste Sekuloski.

We were enthusiastic and we really enjoy teaching and developing aids to achieve the goal.

We hope that you will find it useful during your teaching sessions too.

The link to this video is:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3XZg_zbFew&list=PLFIIsYkYCsxZqj3wR-YgPsfR_sOOLHghn

References:

1. Teaching Patterns: a Pattern Language for improving the Quality of instruction in Higher Education Settings by Daren Olson. Page 96
2. Motivated Student: Unlocking the Enthusiasm for Learning by Bob Sullo. Page 62
3. Joekes K, Noble LM, Kubacki AM, Potts HW, Lloyd M. Does the inclusion of 'professional development' teaching improve medical students' communication skills? BMC Med Educ. 2011;11:41.
4. Choudhary A, Gupta V. Teaching communications skills to medical students: Introducing the fine art of medical practice. International Journal of Applied and Basic Medical Research. 2015;5(Suppl 1):S41-S44. doi:10.4103/2229-516X.162273.