

5 Micro-skills for Clinical Teaching



Originally Developed by Gordon and Meyer

Objectives

- ❑ Name the 5 micro-skills of clinical teaching.
 - ❑ Explain the educational theory behind the 5 micro-skills.
 - ❑ Apply the 5 micro-skills of clinical teaching in a variety of settings.
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5 Micro-skills Model of Clinical Teaching

1. Get a commitment.
 2. Probe for supporting evidence.
 3. Teach general principles.
 4. Reinforce what was done right.
 5. Correct mistakes.
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Micro-skill 1: Get a Commitment

□ Examples

- “What do you think is going on?”
- “Why do you think this patient has been non-compliant?”
- “What do you think is the patient’s main concern?”

□ Not: “What’s the family history?” “Anything else I should know?”

Micro-skill 2:

Probe for Supporting Evidence

□ Examples

- “What were the main findings that led to your diagnosis?”
- “Why did you choose that medication given the availability of others?”

□ Not

- “What are the possible causes of heart failure?”
 - “I don’t think this is infectious mono. Don’t you have any other ideas?”
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Micro-skill 3:

Teach General Principles

□ Examples

- “Typically, a cellulitis is not something you can drain. An abscess is fluctuant & can be drained.”
- “The important factors to consider are...”

□ Not

- “I’ve always done it that way.”
- “This patient needs Lasix.”

Limit to 1-2 concepts.

Micro-skill 4:

Reinforce What Was Done Right

□ Examples

- “You did a really good job of prioritizing that patient’s long list of problems at today’s visit.”
- “You were conscious of the patient’s financial situation and the cost in selecting the most appropriate antibiotic. This will help the patient be compliant with medication.”

□ Not

- “Good job!”
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Micro-skill 5: Correct Mistakes

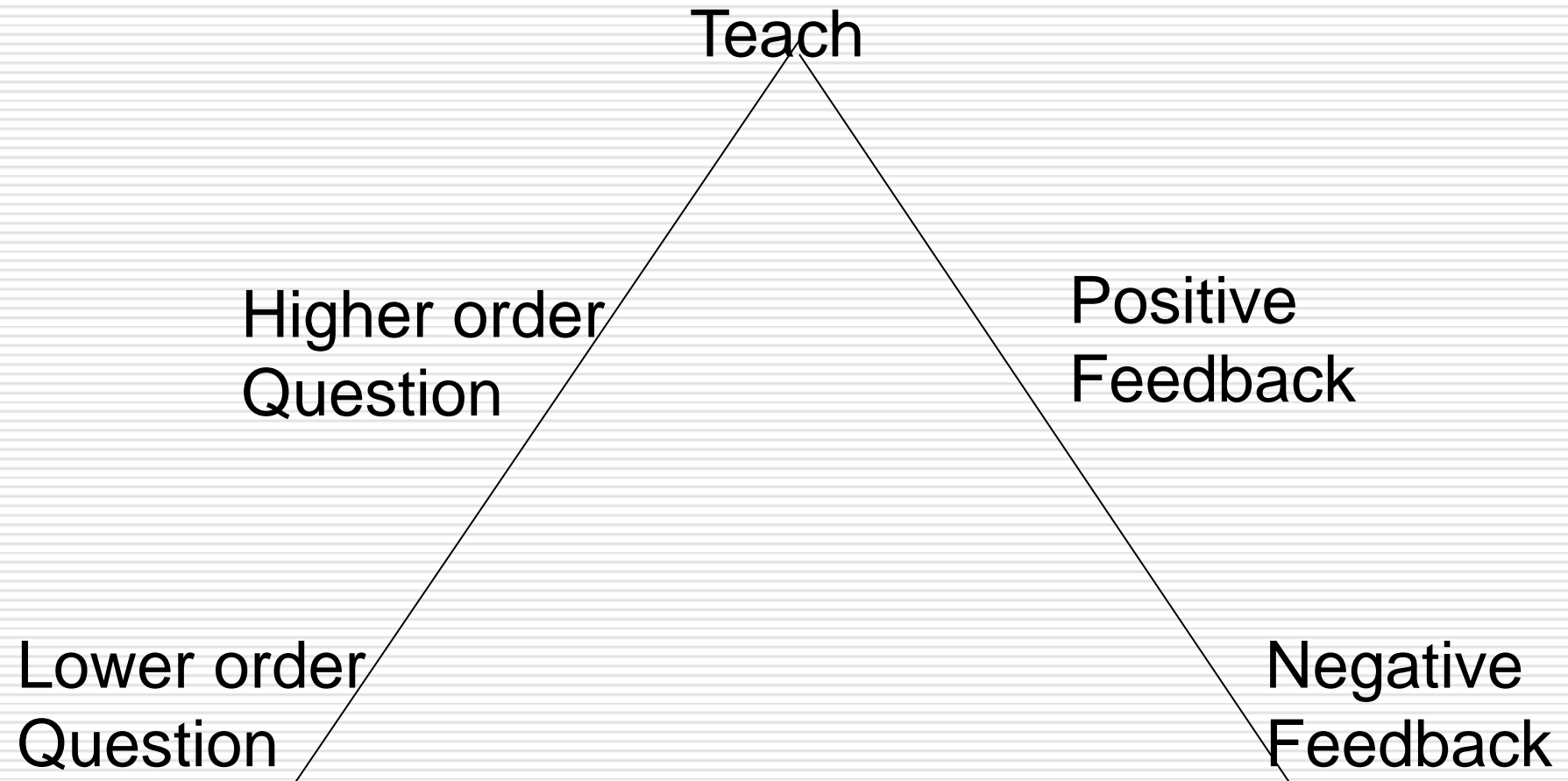
□ Examples

- “You may be right that this child’s symptoms are due to a URI. But without checking the ears, you may be overlooking an otitis media.”
- “There are more cost-effective approaches to treating _____.”

□ Not

- “You did what?”
 - “That whole case was handled badly.”
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Educational Theory behind 5 micro-skills



5 Micro-skills of Clinical Teaching

Now that you've seen the micro-skills, it's time to put them in action. The steps are:

1. Get a commitment.
2. Probe for supporting evidence.
3. Teach general principles.
4. Reinforce what was done right.
5. Correct mistakes.

Video Example

- [Student-Patient Encounter](#)
 - [Case Presentation](#)
 - [Teaching in Front of the Patient.mov](#)
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