

25 Delivery Keys to Instruction for Self Evaluation: How Can I Help Myself Become A Music Teacher?

(Like AA but with 14 more steps!)

Dr. Robert Gillespie
The Ohio State University

Introduction: Relating to students effectively is one of the most significant factors in determining success of teaching: Research shows that elementary and middle school students value delivery more than content, while older students value content more.

Twenty-five Keys

1. Technical Vision – do not lose the vision!
Determine the **overall technique vision** of your classes:
 - 1st and 2nd year - to develop playing foundation
 - 3rd and 4th year - refine/extend skills
 - 5th and above - skills for expressiveness
2. Modeling
Teaching with instrument in hand for string and wind classes or with voice for choral, showing students (sound/picture leading students)
3. Nonverbal & limited verbal teaching
Effective, efficient, use of cue words, helps students stay on task
4. Rote to note
Rote skill instruction followed by music
Teaching sequence: rote (warm up), to passage, to play/sing through, to performance
5. Proximity
Teacher moving throughout the class, requires travel path
6. Touch/Tactile
Helping students **feel** correct skill through appropriate teacher touch. Teaching strings is different than band - initial physical coordination skills more complex and requires more touch by teacher
7. Dissect & stack skills
Dissect complex playing skills into prerequisite skills and then stack to produce complex skills, e.g. teaching spiccato on string first
8. Multiple teaching strategies
Many different ways to teach same playing skill for *disguised* repetition
9. Review
Reinforce previous skills to build **reliable** technical foundation. More review is better.
10. Leadership
Seen by students through teacher body balance and lengthening, ease of movement, elevated posture, eye contact (constant, to all areas), voice projection, confidence, musicianship, preparation (lesson plans), variable voice pitch/dynamics, and variable facial expressions - to determine **who** is going to lead the class
11. Humor
Willingness to laugh at yourself and with your students, e.g. exaggeration, tease
12. Routine
Rehearsals structured into **patterns of activities** for instructional efficiency, saves time (e.g., organized tuning process, warm up)

13. Pacing
Speed of instruction – awareness, controlled, variable, lack of dead time, by design
14. Classroom management
Ability to control the behavior of groups of students and get students' attention when needed, including appropriate behaviors defined with established rewards (extrinsic to intrinsic)
15. Repertoire Selection
Select repertoire to reinforce rote technique to avoid the *evils* of over programming!
16. Careful development of playing skills
Develop student technique to allow careful building of playing skills, as carefully as students will allow - do not be in a hurry! Why be in a race!
17. Peer teaching
Students teaching each other in class, e.g. student checkers
18. Student leaders
Student leads class while teacher works with individual students
Frees up teacher to move throughout the class
19. Positive Feedback
Recognizing the **positive** behavior and achievement of students
20. Feedback
Research shows students respond best to specific positive feedback
21. Teacher Self evaluation tools:
Audiotape, videotape, timeline, sociogram, checklist
Done frequently to correct bad habits and to develop new and better teaching habits
22. Teaching Sequence
 1. According to research the most efficient and effective teaching sequence is:
 - 1) teacher presents task
 - 2) students respond
 - 3) teacher gives specific and contingent feedback
 2. Continue steps 1, 2, and 3.
23. Awareness of students' natural **learning** styles: auditory, tactile, visual, and concrete or abstract
Need to match students' learning styles with different **teaching** styles, such as sequential, global, analytical, discovery, tactile, visual, aural
24. Knowing and understanding the differences between pre-adolescents and adolescents
25. Awareness of your natural teaching style, e.g., passive leader, strong leader, kind, gentle, aggressive, enthusiastic, slow-paced, fast -paced, variable-paced, excited, etc.

GOAL:

Evaluate your teaching based upon the keys. Select one or two to develop. Apply to your teaching. Then assess evaluate. When accomplished, choose next key to apply. Then, select additional key to develop and monitor. Continue process.

Additional Resources on Student Learning Styles:

- *The Way They Learn* by Cynthia Tobias (Tyndale House Publishers)
- *Different Children Different Needs* by Charles Boyd (Multnomah Publishers)
- *Teaching Orchestra Through Performance, Vol 3.* Chapter by Bob Gillespie