


Training Your Trainers

Principles and Practices for
Successful Voice Instruction


Patty Cobb Baker

*If you have knowledge, let others light
their candles at it.*
~ Margaret Fuller



**#1 (Most Important)
Coaching Principle**

*They don't care what you know
until they know
how much you care.*



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COACHING PRINCIPLES

- LISTEN!!!
- THE STUDENTS PERCEPTION OF WHAT THEY KNOW AND WHAT THEY ARE DOING VOCALLY IS ALWAYS 100% CORRECT! What they believe is what they believe. Don't tell them they are wrong – guide them to another way!
- Trainer must have complete awareness on student's physical, mental and spiritual state during the IVI - must **TOTALLY** divorce yourself from *your own* self/agendas during the training session.
- No touching ... without asking permission first!

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COACHING PRINCIPLES (cont'd)

- Watch your language! Your words are extremely powerful. Adopt a teacher's vocabulary.
- K.I.S.S. principle applies – don't need complex exercises to teach the basics.
- Goal is to train student to become their own teacher - to ultimately be able to instinctively **feel** the correct vs. incorrect way to use their vocal instrument.
- Trainer's job is to find out what works and what doesn't work for each student - - build your "bag of tricks" and keep pulling "tricks" out until something works!

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COACHING PRACTICES

- Always start out by checking the student's agenda for the lesson.
- Constantly check the student's awareness throughout IVI – ask them what they physically FEEL, what is different about what they are doing? If they can articulate it, they understand it.
- Gauge carefully how much the student can absorb in one session.
- Focus on one thing at a time, in order of priority; however, always start at a position of strength, not weakness.

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COACHING PRACTICES (cont'd)

- Sing along with the student if that helps them feel more at ease.
- If the student is just not getting something, shift to something else.
- Encouragement! Always find something to praise and provide BIG praise when something is done correctly and/or well!
- Demonstrate correct way and “not as correct” way.
- Ask them to do it correct way and “not as correct” way.
- If you can, draw pictures of the way the body makes sounds.

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COACHING PRACTICES (cont'd)

- Remind the student to record the lesson.
- Make notes as you go along in the lesson; keep a copy for yourself for reference before the next lesson.
- See if there's a need to also work their speaking voice.
- Make sure they feel they've accomplished at least some little thing during each session.
- Summarize - notes: what worked on, what accomplished.
- Homework - what to work on before next session, set date/agenda for next session.

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ALWAYS REMEMBER:

- Teach only “what you know and are able to show” – it's okay **not** to know something!
- Critique the performance, not the performer
- Focus on desired results instead of errors
- Let singers know what you want and how to achieve it
- Find their “brilliance” ... build upon singer's strengths
- A sense of humor can be your strongest teaching tool! Use it!

The mediocre teacher tells.
The good teacher explains.
The superior teacher demonstrates.
The great teacher inspires.

~ William Arthur Ward

To teach is to learn twice.
~ Joseph Joubert



Teaching is reminding others that they know just as well as you.
You are all learners, doers and teachers.
~ Richard Bach

“Teach the world to sing.”
~ My husband

“Sing pretty.”
~ My Dad

