

## **Benefits of Direct Observation**

1. Communicates to students that you care about them, that you are interested in their development
2. Enables you to establish a baseline for each student in terms of abilities, comfort level with patients, etc.
3. Reinforces to the patient that having a student in the practice is important
4. Observation is the only way to assess the learner's ability in certain areas (interviewing style, history taking, technique and organization of physical exam)
5. Avoids the "halo effect." Enables you to specify strengths and weaknesses rather than make global judgments
6. Reminds you that evaluation is not your only job as a teacher