

Success in Piano Lessons

Practice Tips and More, for Students and Parents

Playing music is so much fun and so rewarding! What are some ways that students can be successful as they learn how to play piano? Here are some tips for you and your child:

- **A regularly tuned acoustic piano at home is best.** A piano should be tuned 1-2 times per year. Please let me know if you need a recommendation for a tuner. If you want to purchase an electric piano instead, it must have **88 full sized weighted keys**. Keyboards that don't meet these standards do not feel like or sound as beautiful as real pianos, and when children come to lessons, they will be playing a very different instrument that does not respond in the same way. Yamaha and Roland are good brands. I like Casio stage pianos too. Various other types of keyboards are fun instruments appropriate for pop music. I have one too!
- **Practicing is key!** Set aside some time every day for your child to practice. A regularly scheduled practice time might help them keep a good routine. Ask me for a practice chart if you think that could help, or use an app such as Andante Practice Journal. They should practice pieces 2-3 times in a row, and rough spots deserve extra attention.

How long should your child practice at home?

- 15-20 minutes daily for beginners is a good goal
 - 20-30 minutes daily, for students past the primer books
 - Intermediate level students would benefit from 30 minutes or more
- **If your child is very young, they will need help reading instructions in their books, reminders to practice, and regular practice monitoring.**
 - **Check the assignment notebook for instructions.** Parents, please take a look at this notebook on a weekly basis, especially if your child is very young. And I may include some notes that pertain to you, like lesson scheduling or recital dates, etc.
 - **Attend lessons weekly.** Students will get the best results from piano study when they attend their lessons regularly. Missed lessons mean slower progress. Sometimes there are schedule conflicts or illnesses or emergencies, and that is understandable. Please check Snyder School of Singing's Attendance Policies for more information. <https://www.snyderschoolofsinging.com/policies-and-procedures>
 - **Remember to bring all materials to lessons.** This includes music books and an assignment notebook. **A dedicated tote bag is recommended.** Snyder School of Singing sells a nice one! 😊

- **Record your child playing and ask them to listen and critique.** This is almost like being your own teacher! They can check for a steady tempo, limited mistakes, attention to details like dynamics, and correct rhythms.
- **Recitals and concerts are important experiences for all musicians.** Recitals give students goals to work towards, opportunities to meet and hear other students play, and chances to become accustomed to performing in front of others. In addition, the skills learned are transferable to other situations in life.

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