



Suzuki Piano Studio

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WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD AT HOME

Play the artist's recording of the music being learned, quietly. Do this casually, several times a day, without concern for whether the children are listening attentively.

Practice **regularly**, every day—seven days a week—no matter how many other demands present themselves and even if you don't get through all of the practice assignment.

Let your child have some say about the schedule for daily practice. Make a chart showing the times that you have both agreed to and post it as a reminder or set your phone alarm for that time.

The age of your child will be a major factor in your approach to practice. If your child is a preschooler, keep the elements of a game in high priority since learning takes place best when an activity is fun.

Be enthusiastic **yourself** about practice time! Find an interesting practice routine that will cover the tasks to be done. List the assignments for the week and decide in what order they will be practiced. This can be done by using a prepared chart, by drawing lottery cards or by some other system.

Know (ask your teacher) what is reasonable to expect. Children learn at different rates, but excessive demands (or leniency) as a regular diet will create tensions and disinterest. Actively involve your child in determining specifically what is to be learned and how to go about it. Do not **tell** her what the teacher said—**ask** him.

Learn how to work in very small steps—one note, two notes, a measure. Connect one small step to another and rejoice in the progress. Motivate your child by making a chart which shows her progress. **Be creative!**

Learning the notes, fingering and other technicalities is the **beginning** of study for a musical piece. Only through mastery will it contribute to the building of permanent skills. As your child advances through the repertoire, spend **more and more time** reviewing and improving the pieces learned.

Be generous with **encouraging** remarks, even though a good effort may not have produced successful results. Praise or criticism should be directed towards your child's efforts, not her character. Avoid verbalizing, or showing through body language, irritation or impatience. Reward your child with love and appreciation.

Make the home practice a special time between parent and child for working together and making music without the distraction of a younger sibling or electronic devices. Give your child your full attention.

Record the practice session occasionally. The child hears himself; you hear yourself. You both are sure to get some objective feedback.

Sense when a practice session is over. It's more important to return to the instrument with joy and enthusiasm tomorrow than to force a few extra minutes today.

Once or twice a week, give a home concert for the parent who does not usually supervise the practice sessions. Include bowing and applause.