

Practice Tips

I am regularly asked about dealing with a student who is not practicing. Below are a few tips I recommend:

Establish practicing as part of a daily routine. Children generally do not consider doing homework as an option so I recommend adding practice time to the homework routine.

Children under 7 will get much more out of practicing if a parent or older relative is there to respond, encourage, or just listen to what they are doing. Once a routine is established, you may be able to spend less time attending the practice session but during the first few months I recommend being involved as much as possible, even if it is only for fifteen minutes.

Music is generally learned with repetition. This goes for learning technique, songs, reading, or terminology used to communicate musical ideas between teacher and student. A practice session is not intended as a musical performance and as a result may not be as aesthetically pleasing. **Patience, tolerance, and understanding are necessary for anyone at home during practice time.**

Practice in a quiet area where distractions are minimized or nonexistent. Piano students may have more of a challenge than any others due to the fact that they cannot just pick up their instrument and go to the next room. This is where cooperation from family members is important.

There are different levels of commitment regarding practice time and what each student wants to accomplish. Whether a student wants to participate in the ABRSM exam, join competitions, or just play for fun, practice is necessary to improve and benefit from time spent with a private lesson teacher. This may seem counterintuitive, but time spent practicing is where the real improvement occurs, not the lesson. **The private lesson time is where a student learns what to practice.**

Learning to play an instrument takes time and dedication but the rewards last a lifetime. The experience is much more than just a fun activity. It gives students a sense of accomplishment and achievement which carry over and enrich other parts of a student's life. Regular practicing is a necessary part of learning and I hope these tips help you to create an environment that is conducive to musical growth and prosperity.

You are welcome to email any questions regarding practicing to:

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