

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED AT THE PIANO

We are often asked (and encourage!) questions from parents about practice habits and recommendations in order to help the student's musical progress:

"Establish A Regular Routine of Daily Practice: Consult with your child's teacher about the amount of daily practice expected. Quality and regularity are just as important as duration. A shorter practice period when a student is well rested and fully concentrating will accomplish more than a longer period when he/she is tired or distracted; early morning practice (before other activities vie for attentions) is the answer for many children. Several short daily practice periods can be more effective than one longer practice session.

Avoid needless arguments about practice. Post a schedule and have your child record his/her daily practice time. Establish a rule that missed practice will be made up within the week. Talk to your child to be sure that lesson assignments are clear and that parent and teacher expectations are understood.

Establish clear priorities: Make regular attendance at piano lessons a rule. Avoid over-scheduling your child's activities. Good health, social life, and real accomplishment all suffer when a child is committed to too many extra-curricular projects. Try to schedule piano lessons on a day when there are no other major after-school events.

Be Available: Listen to your child's practice and make *encouraging* suggestions. Make music at home for fun. Duets and other ensemble playing can be a valuable source of learning and enjoyment. You can learn alongside your child, or share your previous musical experience with him/her. Ask the teacher for suggestions of music that meets your special family needs. Encourage your child's friends to join in the recreational music making.

Attend student workshops and recitals whenever you're invited. Your presence is a demonstration of interest and support.

Take your child to concerts. There are many free programs at colleges and museums, and student tickets are often available for symphony concerts and other recitals. Attendance at musical events can inspire and encourage your child." (*From a National Piano Foundation parent guide.*)