



Piano Lesson Workshop for Parents

How you can help with your child's piano practicing.

From March 17, 2018

Key Topics

- How to structure your child's piano practice sessions to make them more efficiently.
- Tools you can use to actively help your child practicing.
- How you can further your child's musicality.
- My favorite apps
- Answering questions that have not been addressed.

Important Facts

- The younger the children, the more they need your help!
- Children that can't read numbers and letters need to be taught completely differently, and can absolutely not practice on their own!
- **The progress a child makes is directly proportional to the help they get outside their lesson and the amount of time they spend on effective practicing!**
- The faster they progress, the more fun they have, and the more they are willing to practice.

Positive Outcome

The more regularly and efficiently they practice



the faster they progress



the more fun they'll have



Which creates the drive to practice even more



which in turn makes them progress even faster



with the result that they love playing the piano!

Negative Outcome

practicing rarely and not efficiently



yields little progress



no fun



which makes them practice even less



which leads to almost no progress



which makes the child ultimately hate playing the piano

**The ultimate goal is
that we teach the child how to practice
efficiently
on her own**

Practicing Should Be Rewarding

Practicing is hard work but it can be also fun and very rewarding for the child as long as he/she experiences the following:

- practicing yields immediate and long-term results,
- practicing is being rewarded and praised,
- practicing results in performing better,
- (among others!)

On The Day Of The Lesson

The more time passes between the lesson and the first practice session, the less the child can remember what she has learned.

On lesson day be sure you ask your child ASAP about what he has learned in the lesson, how it went, etc.. *Tip: Be sure you check my email at the same time so you can refresh his memory.*

Make your child play for you what he has learned in the lesson.

All in all this review doesn't have to last longer than 5 minutes, but it will make a big difference.

Be sure you and you child make it a habit!

Help your Child Being Organized

- Ask your child to keep a practice log so you (the parent), the child (the student), and I (the teacher) know what she has been working on throughout the week. Include the day, the time, and what measures or techniques she has been working on.
Tip: Also include any problems and questions that need to be addressed by the teacher.
- **Please remind your child - especially at the beginning - to always bring the music and practice log to each lesson.**
- Schedule a regular practice time for your child. Write out a weekly schedule just for practicing piano.
Tip: Practicing just 10 minutes every day can go a long way. Tell your child that you insist he is practicing piano during those times, and encourage her to play as often as she likes in addition to the scheduled times.
- Be sure you discuss with your child what his homework for the next lesson is, and how to accomplish it. (See following slide about “How To Practice Efficiently”.)

The following slides discuss things the child needs to be constantly reminded of, until he/she does all of it automatically.

How To Practice Efficiently

- Setting a clear and manageable goal for each practice session is crucial. This is where you can be of great help at the beginning!
- Don't let the child just play anything. Children like "practicing" what they already know. They also like to always jump back to the beginning of the song whenever they make a mistake. Don't let them. They need to work out the problems right where they occur.
- It is important to make sure they practice slowly and thoroughly enough to avoid internalizing mistakes. They need to avoid making the same mistake twice. Please remind them of this! (I spend a lot of their lesson time on explaining to them how!)
- Practicing with a metronome is an amazing tool. The metronome exposes any weaknesses, because the child will naturally slow down when it becomes difficult.

Breaking it Down

- Divide the piece into smaller manageable segments.
- First clarify the notes and the fingering.
- Practice one hand at a time before playing them together.
- Start each practice session with a different section of the piece.
- Review the other sections you already learned at the beginning of your practice session. (=A great warm up!)

Setting Achievable Practice Goal

- One of the most useful things you can do for your child is help her to set a manageable practice goal before she starts practicing.
- You both will learn over time how much this is. At the beginning you may have to change it on the fly.
- At the end of the practice time the child should be able to perform what ever he/she was working on without mistakes for you.
- Be sure you insist the child plays for you after each session. This way the child walks away from each practice session with the feeling of having something accomplished.

My Website for GISC Piano

<http://www.pianoforlittlefingers.com/>

Piano for
Little Fingers.com

*Learning Center for young piano
students, their parents and teachers*



- Please be sure you check out this website. I created it just for you.
- There you will find important articles related to piano playing at GISC. There is a Parents Help Desk sections that deals with commonly asked questions.

My Training Videos

<http://www.pianoforlittlefingers.com/free-piano-training-videos/>

- My Training Videos are specifically designed for parents that want to help their child, but don't know how to play.
- Be sure to watch the entire video with your child once all the way through before working on it. (Be sure he/she pays attention.
- Then pick specific sections your child is currently working on. Help them write things (pitches, fingering, etc) into their sheet music as you see fit.

My Favorite Apps

[Watch my video about the apps I recommend](#)

- **Pitches** (for Learning note names)
- **Music Tutor** (game for learning note names)
- **Simply Piano** (for parents and their kids)
- **Piano Maestro** (for teachers and their students)

Music Appreciation

- Please make sure you spend some time to actively listen to a piece of music with your child. Do not allow him to be distracted, to talk, or engage in any other activity during such a listening session. ACTIVELY listening has become a lost art. Most people listen passively, treating music as background noise. We need to teach our children that music is an art form.
- Play high information music for your child. Classical music like Mozart, Ravel, Debussy, Chopin. Jazz music like Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman, Miles Davis. See which type they like best and feed them more of it.
- Watch videos and movies about great pianists (classical and jazz). By the way, I recommend “The Legend of 1900” for adults.
- I will add a post with music recommendations to my website shortly.