



Helpful tips: How to make music lessons a valuable experience for you and your family



- Choose an instrument to study which appeals in sound to the student. The instrument will more likely be practiced if the student finds the sound pleasant to his/her ears.
- Obtain a good quality instrument (make sure string instruments are the right size). An instrument that is “used” should be checked by a reputable repair person to make certain it is in good working order. A properly working instrument increases the potential for the student to produce a better beginning sound.
- Obtain the lesson book and any specific musical supplies the teacher suggests (e.g. folding music stand, slide oil, foot stool, metronome, etc.) This will help get the student off to a good start from the beginning.
- Set aside a specific & consistent time to practice each day. It will become part of the student’s daily routine. It is important for the beginning student to practice regularly and frequently for shorter amounts of time rather than longer periods less often.
- Attend live concerts, watch musical performances on television, and listen to recordings of many styles of music.
- Family members of the student can show their interest in the learning process by listening and commenting enthusiastically on the student’s progress.
- For younger students, parents might attend lessons (if it is encouraged by the teacher) or stop in at the end of the lesson to hear the teacher’s comments. Be sure that conversation heard by the child is positive; if you have concerns, arrange for a private telephone call or meeting with the teacher. Good and productive communication with the teacher is very important!
- Family members should attend performances in which the student is involved and provide warm support. Avoid comparisons with other performances. Try to offer praise for any accomplishment, no matter how small.
- Remember – learning an instrument or learning to sing is challenging. The family’s enthusiasm for music and for the student’s participation will be contagious.