

Practice Tips

Learning to sing or play an instrument is a lot of fun, but it's also a discipline. This means that as your child learns new concepts and develops their inherent abilities, a commitment is necessary to progress. If you've been with Let's Play Music a while, you've no doubt heard your teacher say that investing 15 to 20 minutes a day, 5 or 6 days a week is better than hour of sporadic practice. This is because long term memory and skill development advance with consistent effort. Remember all that information in school you crammed before a test? I didn't think so! Once the novelty of taking music lessons wanes a bit, it's pretty natural for students to resist practice time. This is because it requires them to focus, and let's face it: it's work! Here are some tips we've found effective over the years with our own children and students:

Practice Tip # 1

Practice space should be located where family activity occurs. It helps if you're within ear-shot of your child as she practices only to give encouragement, but also because this prevents the child from feeling isolated. If your piano is in the basement, consider this a good time to fold that basket of laundry while she does her scales.

Practice Tip #2

Make a routine out of practice time. Families who are most successful with practicing are those who choose a practice time and stick with it. Many parents find that 15 or 20 minutes before their child gets on the bus works great, others like the after dinner time. We have found this to be true also. If we're all over the place with enforcing practice, we're likely to encounter a lot of resistance.

Practice Tip # 3

Lastly, have fun with music! Make a game out of it. Little ones like to play teacher and have their parents learn under their direction. This can really fuel interest. Hold regular family concerts; invite grandparents and other extended family or friends over for an evening of music with your child as the featured act. Serve some refreshments and enjoy! Their music shouldn't exist in a vacuum; it should expand beyond the weekly lesson and the practice regimen. The more opportunity for genuine appreciation students have, the more successful they'll be on their journey.

Spring and Summer Tips

When the weather starts getting nice, practicing can seem more challenging. Try getting your practicing in before school-remember 15 to 20 minutes, 5 times a week should do- or after dinner before heading outdoors again.

Success!

Please come in to the studio to talk to your teacher at the end of each lesson. Communication with your teacher is essential for success. There are so many things to learn in music! Letting your teacher know what you want to study or if you would like to try other instruments, techniques, songwriting, computer music, or sound recording. Work with your teacher to set goals. Also, a supportive environment for your musical endeavors at home works wonders!