

5 WAYS TO GET THE MOST OUT OF MUSIC LESSONS

Successful music schools follow guidelines that help their students to have a successful and rewarding experience learning how to play an instrument. These are practical tips that will help you or your child be part of that successful and rewarding experience.

Too Young? Starting at the Right Age.

For children, starting at the right age is a key element to the success of music lessons. Some people will tell you “the sooner the better” but this thought can actually backfire and be a negative. A child may feel overwhelmed if put into lessons too soon, feeling frustrated and wanting to stop lessons. The last thing you want to do is turn a child off to music because of an unpleasant experience that could have been prevented. Sometimes waiting a year to start lessons is a good idea. Children older than the suggested starting age usually do very well. If you would like to know more about the appropriate ages to start a child in music lessons, call our studio and our staff will be happy to help.

Insist on Private Lessons when Learning a Specific Instrument.

Group lessons are a good choice for preschool music programs and theory lessons; however, when learning how to play an instrument, private lessons are the superior choice. In private lessons, it is hard for a student to miss anything, and a student can learn at his or her own pace. Private lessons give the teacher the ability to focus on an individual's strengths and weakness instead of teaching to the middle of the road as is done in a group setting. In a private setting, the student is the primary focus of the teacher. For more information about private music lessons contact our studio.

Take Lessons in a Professional Environment.

Learning music should take place in a professional environment. It is not just a matter of having a qualified teacher. In professional environment, a student cannot be distracted by siblings, ringing phones, television, pets or anything else. In a private setting, better results are produced since the only focus during a ½ hour to hour lesson is music and learning. A music school environment is motivating because of the presence of peers who are progressing at different levels and the chance to hear other instruments is present. In a music school, music is not just a hobby or sideline job for a teacher. It is a responsibility that is taken very seriously.

Make Practicing Easier.

Improving in music takes practice. One of the main problems parents have with music lessons is in encouraging children to practice every day. Making practice easier is a matter of setting the same time every day to develop an expected routine, using repetition in practicing rather than having children practice for a set period of time which can be agonizing for a young child, and providing rewards and incentives for your child to help your child feel positive about practicing. Sincere praise and a “pat on the back” can go a long way. Most of all, be patient.

Use Recognized Teaching Materials.

Excellent materials have been developed by music professionals that are recognized throughout the country. As in piano, books have been made specifically for certain ages and are recognized by teaching professionals. There are books to help students begin at the appropriate level. These materials have been developed to make teaching easier. They also ensure that no part of the learning process can be left out. If ever you should move to a different part of the country, reputable materials can be recognized by teachers and institutions allowing lessons to be picked up where they were left off.

We hope these tips are helpful as you or your children begin your music lessons. Be sure to have fun, because music is something one should enjoy for a lifetime. Be realistic in your expectations for you or your child, allowing learning to take place at a comfortable pace, and be sure to enjoy the journey.