

LESSON IN LIVING

PRACTICE TIPS FOR PARENTS

How to Help Your Child Succeed in Music

WHAT ROLE DO YOU PLAY? Your support is essential to your child's success. Parents are just as involved in the commitment to music as their children.

WHAT TO DO: Achievement in music requires effort over a period of time. You can help you child succeed by doing the following:

- Schedule a consistent time and a quiet place for practicing.
- Remain nearby during practice time as much as possible.
- Praise your child's efforts and achievements.
- Encourage your child to play for family and friends.
- Expose your child to a wide variety of music by encouraging him or her to play different styles and by attending various concerts/recitals.
- Communicate with your child's teacher after every lesson.
- Make sure your child's instrument is always in working condition.
- Help your child build a personal music library.
- If you also play an instrument, learn duets together.

WHAT NOT TO DO:

- Don't use practice as a punishment.
- Don't insist that your child play for others when he or she doesn't want to.
- Don't make fun of mistakes of less-than-perfect playing.
- Don't apologize to others if your child has a weak performance.
- Don't start your child on an instrument that is in poor working condition.
- Don't expect rapid progress in the beginning.

IF YOUR CHILD LOSES INTEREST: If your child loses interest in his or her musical studies, don't panic! Here are some tips:

- Discuss the situation with your child to determine why the interest is declining.
- Talk to your child's teacher to see what might be done to revive motivation.
- Encourage your child to stay in lessons for an agreed period of time.
- Offer increased support and enthusiasm.

BENEFITS: For your child, music participation enhances:

- Problem solving
- Teamwork
- Goal-setting
- Self-expression
- Coordination
- Memory skills
- Self-esteem and confidence
- Concentration and poise