

## Parents:

### 10 Ways to Get the Most out of Lessons for Free (or mostly free)

1. Come to lessons on time (or 2-3 minutes early so you have time to take off coats and shoes and get music books unpacked) and try not to miss lessons, whenever possible.
2. Attend your child's lessons or sit in the waiting area and read quietly while your child has the lesson in the next room. By attending lessons, you'll hear how songs should sound and hear tips that I give your child, so you can better support their practice at home. Ask questions at the end if there is something you aren't sure about. If you can't attend every lesson, come as often as possible.
3. Keep your instrument in good working order. That means keeping pianos tuned and making sure all keys work.
4. Download a metronome app if you don't already own a metronome. Use it.
5. Make sure your child practices. Set a time or trigger every day and stick to it. Keep a pencil by the piano so your child can check off practice sessions on the assignment sheet. Most music students will get better simply by playing a little every day rather than cramming in practice time just before a lesson.
6. Check in to see what your child should be practicing. It's okay to play old songs or fun songs during a practice session – but if they only play established repertoire, they won't get any better at the new pieces they should be learning.
7. Listen to your child practice. Offer positive feedback when you hear that they are improving. Don't be critical of mistakes. Remember that most practices sessions won't sound like a concert. Students will often need to repeat small sections of music to get better at them. You may be tired of hearing the same thing over and over again, but that's a sign that the student is practicing rather than simply playing. A couple of days before the lesson, listen to each element on the assignment page and ask your child what he plans to do with that element to get ready for the lesson. Initial the pre-lesson check at the bottom of the assignment page.
8. Ask to borrow "Not Until You've Done Your Practice" or "Practiceopedia," or better yet, buy your own copy from [www.insidemusicteaching.com](http://www.insidemusicteaching.com). These have tips that may help you at home.
9. Encourage your child to play concerts for you or friends and/or relatives. Students should review one or two pieces every day from their AAA ("Anytime, Anywhere, Anybody") Repertoire List so they are always able to play a mix of old favorites and new songs.
10. Take your child to musical performances. Even if these performances don't involve your child's instrument, it is often exciting to see music performed live. This excitement can lead to students wanting to practice more, and being excited about lessons.