

A Parent's Guide To Enhancing Your Child's Musical Experiences

CONGRATULATIONS! Your decision to provide your child with a quality musical instrument is an investment in your child's future. In making it possible for your child to play a musical instrument, you are providing the opportunity for self-expression, creativity and achievement.

Studies indicate parental attitude, support, and involvement are important factors in a child's ability to successfully learn to play and enjoy music.

These guidelines are designed to assist you in giving your child the best support possible for his or her musical endeavors. Like any skill, interest counts far more than talent. With the right support from you, playing music will become a natural part of your child's life.

HOW YOU FIT IN

Your support is an essential element in your child's success.

- Schedule practice times. Music achievement requires focused effort over a period of time. You can help by
 - Providing a quiet place for practice
 - Remaining nearby during practice times as often as possible
 - Schedule a consistent, daily time for practice (note requirements)
 - Praise your child's efforts and achievements
- Provide a private music teacher if possible. Group lessons are a good way to get started, but private instruction from a qualified teacher can greatly accelerate your child's progress! There are highly qualified, affordable instructors in our area.

WHAT TO DO

To give your child the best possible support

- Offer compliments and encouragement regularly – it takes time, especially at first
- Make sure your child's instrument is always in good working condition - crucial
- Listen to practice as often as possible – acknowledge improvement
- Encourage your child to play for family and friends (don't force!)
- Expose your child to a wide variety of music (concerts, recordings...)
- Try to get your child to make a two-year minimum commitment to playing

WHAT NOT TO DO

Your child's progress will be enhanced if you

- Don't use practice as a punishment
- Don't make fun of those initial sounds or less than perfect playing
- Don't start your child on an instrument that is in poor condition
- Don't expect rapid progress in the beginning – it takes time!