

BASIC REQUIREMENTS AND PREPARATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL PIANO LESSONS

A. The Instrument - the highest and best quality that you can possibly afford is the biggest determining factor to success.

1. **A quality standard acoustical piano is best.** Experience shows that the higher quality instrument encourages more eagerness to practice and longer practice sessions. Students with high quality instruments usually take lessons longer and play better, easier and learn faster.
2. A piano will appreciate in value if cared for properly.
3. **Have your piano tuned before lessons begin.** Plan to have the piano tuned at least once, preferably twice a year. If it is not sounding really good, call your piano technician.
4. Place the piano on an inside wall away from direct sun and out of drafts from windows and heating/cooling vents. **Variations in temperature and humidity can cause poor intonation and sluggish key action.** Call your piano technician
5. Wash and dry hands thoroughly before playing the piano. **Teach respect for the instrument from the beginning.**
6. A Digital Piano can be a good second choice **providing that it has the “piano touch or feel.”**
7. A very basic electronic keyboard with weak, super easy playing keys can be a good adjunct, but not the primary instrument at home. It can also be good to take along on trips and/or weekends.

B. Listening equipment

1. **The CD player or Ipod/MP3 players are a good choice and essential for best progress.**
2. Be sure that the equipment has good sound/tone. Programmability is also recommended
3. **More than one CD is highly recommended,** one for the car, upstairs and downstairs, etc.

C. Comfort and Security at the instrument is essential.

1. Proper seating is a requirement to begin lessons. The student must be secure and comfortable at the piano at all times. Students need to be at proper level to play correctly and to produce good tone. Dangling feet can cause back pain and shorten practice sessions prematurely.
2. Adjustable benches and footstools come in several styles and colors, unfinished and finished to match your piano. Samples are available in the studio along with information on where you can order the proper equipment.

D. Supplies

1. The teacher will provide a notebook with pockets and a zipper pouch at the first lesson.
2. Purchase stars, stickers, stamps etc. for daily practice record keeping and other positive reinforcement items.
3. Prepare your cameras loaded plenty of memory and with charged batteries.
4. Purchase a scrapbook for pictures, programs, awards, etc. related to musical experiences. Make sure to attend each one and make a "big deal" of the child's participation in musical events such as recitals, talent shows and other performances.
5. Plan to attend lots of musical performances and enjoy seeing others in performance.