

Love the Daily Practice Session + Show Up = Progress!

“It’s all about the Practice, it’s all about the Practice” – whether you do sports or instruments, there is no substitute for consistent practice to learn your skill. Piano practice is done alone at home, **daily**. Learn to love your daily practice sessions! Have a plan, so you can take your playing to places it has never been. You need to discover for yourself in the practice room what the teacher taught you in the lesson. **Parents & Students**: Create your practice place with good lighting, the piano/keyboard, music books, and iPad/computer. Tackle small steps daily!!

1. Set a realistic practice schedule – daily consistency is what brings results. Set a timer and don’t quit until it rings. Decide the times you will practice each day, stick to it. 30 minutes for beginners and 60 minutes for all levels. Advanced students need 2 – 3 hours. Break it up into doable chunks of time throughout the day, but don’t leave it until late at night.
2. Set realistic goals for each session – work on one small section of a song or one scale or a rhythm exercise or theory work, etc., that you need to improve. Be patient with yourself and slow down to understand and learn the moves correctly. Daily repetition will produce results in playing so you will be able to increase the speed with good playing skills.
3. Be creative in your practice – once you master the music, change it up by changing rhythms, different touches - staccato or legato, play it your way with extra notes, etc.
4. Reward Yourself – after your practice session is done, play whatever you want for fun!

Great practice habits will result in better overall playing, taking you to the next level! Super Fun!!

**Parents your most important job is to set daily practice times and require it from your student!*

www.PianoParentPodcast.com - a great resource for piano parents by Shelly Davis, piano teacher

Reading Music Process - Sunshine Piano Studio

What steps can you do at home to learn to Read Music, to understand music, and to create music?

- Drill grand staff notes with the App - Flashnote Derby (younger students) and Tenuto (older students) on iPads & iPhones. Use Musictheory.net if you only have a computer.
- Drill Rhythm with App - Rhythm Cat Lite (younger students) and Rhythm Trainer (older students). Also use the free metronome Apps Soundbrenner (Player on app) or Supermetronome Groovebox.
- Music Theory – **weekly do the online videos & interactive exercises that go with your Theory Book: courses.pianoprogram.com. Sign in, do the next lesson on your checklist, then do your workbook page that is assigned.** Also, use theory apps: 1st Music Theory Pro → 2nd Music Theory Professor or use MusicTheory.net if you only have a computer.
- Writing & Creating Music: Noteflight, free music notation software or Finale for older students and GarageBand, free DAW music production software or CuBase Pro for older students

As students focus on playing songs on the piano, learning the language of music, Music Theory, is systematically introduced from the first lesson to begin the reading music process. Does it take time? Yes! Students learn Keyboard geography on the keys, but also as it relates to the written music. They are learning multiple things at once: note names on the keys and music staff, how to play rhythms and see beats/rhythms on the page, how to put chords together on the keys and recognize chords, scales, arpeggios, octave patterns on the page, key signatures, time signatures, & so much more! This process gives students musical tools and knowledge to eventually play what is on the written page, but also to understand music so they can arrange, compose, & improvise. Each year adds increasingly harder layers to the Reading Music process!