

## Practise Tips for Kids

“If you cannot always remember when you should practice, keep this in mind: **Practice on the days you eat.**”



### 1. REGULAR DAILY PRACTISCE

Keep it short but regular: (7 reps equal progress)

Kids learn best with consistent exposure.

Set up a daily practise time (before school is ideal)

Even minimal exposure (15 minutes a day) will prove to be very beneficial

(Many students will practice long sessions and then not practice for a few days.

If this is all that you can do it's better than nothing but in order to develop a strong practice structure that will last a lifetime try to make it part of your daily life.)

### 2. WORK WITHIN YOUR ABILITY & DON'T RUSH AHEAD

By moving slowly one level at a time you will master the basic underlying concepts which will then help with more difficult playing later.

By moving ahead too soon students get frustrated and lose interest quickly.

You will feel much better about your playing when you can play something perfectly at your level rather than something incorrectly at a higher level.

Playing beyond your ability often leads to bad technique.

### 3. PRACTICE MEANS PLAY WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW

Most piano students who practice will always sit and play those familiar things that sound *GOOD*.

Remember, to get the most out of your time, practice material that presents a challenge, this will help you learn most effectively and quickly.

So, when you sit at the piano and have **NO MISTAKES**... it is time to do something new and more difficult.

### 4. RECORD YOURSELF

A lot of times you may find by listening to yourself that it clearly needs more work.

It is worth sitting back and actually enjoy what you have recorded.

This is valuable advice for beginners to professional level players.

## 5. TRACK YOUR PROGRES

By keeping track of your daily practice students will clearly see that when they practice for a stretch of days that this will be why their piano playing is getting better.

Also when a student skips practice for some days they will be able to see just why a piece is giving them difficulty.

So write down your times daily and pay extra attention to those weeks where you have put in more time.....  
LISTEN TO THE RESULTS.

## 6. USE YOUR EARS

Music is to listen to so use your ears.

Listen carefully to what you are playing .. If something sounds wrong, chances are it is.

## 7.SET SMALL GOALS

Whatever you are working on be sure to break it down into small levels ( your teacher will advise on how to do this)

For example: do the right hand perfectly first before adding the left hand .

This type of practice is used by the best of us and will give students the feeling of accomplishment many times while they are working on a piece.

Don't wait until the tune is complete to feel good about it, this takes too long and will tend to pull ones interest away.

So if a piece will take you a week to complete why not feel good about it each day you work on it.

## 8.USE A METRONOME

Use a metronome ONLY if your teacher tells you to.

Young students especially need to learn how to count on their own first before using a metronome.

(If not taught correctly a child will put the metronome on but not understand how to keep in time).

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The MORE you practice, the BETTER you play.

The BETTER you play, the more you ENJOY making music.

The MORE you enjoy making music, the MORE you practice.

The MORE you practice, the..... BETTER you play.....