

Elizabeth Skinner Studio
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Tips for Success!

Thank you for nurturing your child's interest in music! Here are a few things that will help your child succeed:

In one sentence - this is the secret to your child's success:

Students who attend all lessons (including summer lessons) & group classes, practice regularly and have parental involvement at home will progress, feel successful and want to continue their studies!

Here are the details:

Listening

Listening to the Suzuki cds and other fine classical music helps students learn repertoire and inspires them to play beautifully. *The more your child listens to the cd, the faster s/he will learn.* Listening to the Suzuki cd can be active or passive (background music/music in the car....). Make multiple copies of the cd so you can have one in the car, house, etc and in case you lose one!

Review

Suzuki students constantly review the pieces that they have learned - this helps to reinforce memory, technical skills and musical expression. We can always play more beautifully and review pieces are a great way to apply new techniques to a familiar piece.

Practice

Dr. Suzuki said "only practice on the days you eat." I realize that this is difficult but it's better to practice 15 minutes a day than 30 minutes just 2-3 days/week. Rarely do students love to practice so it's normal if your child doesn't want to. We can make it easier for them (and you!) by helping them develop a good practice routine. *Students who do not practice consistently grow frustrated by their lack of progress and are more likely to quit.*

How do you foster consistent practice?

- Create a consistent practice schedule (before school, after dinner, etc). Practice time should be nonnegotiable and should become an integral part of daily life like brushing teeth, etc.

- Find a dedicated practice space and make it easy to get out the instrument.
- Make it fun - if you need ideas, please ask me.
- Practice with your child - understand the weekly goals and guide your child through practice. (Middle-high school students are expected to take charge of their own practicing but I encourage parents to remind students to practice and to ask what they're working on.)