

AT-HOME PRACTICE

**call with any
questions during
practice**
(928) 863-0572

1. Practice at least once a day and listen as much as possible.
2. Let your child help make decisions. Discuss what you need to do, how many times, what to practice next, what you have accomplished, and perhaps what goals to set for the next practice session.
3. Set realistic goals for your self and your child. It is important that you be able to accomplish what you set out to do without becoming frustrated.
4. Keep a positive attitude during practice. Both parent and child must work at this. Positive discussions about what you are doing can be very beneficial, but negative comments, irrelevant comments, and arguing are a waste of time and create a poor environment for learning.
5. Make one main point during each practice session. Don't try to correct everything every day. The child has a much better chance of learning and remembering one point per practice.
6. Don't teach ahead of your teacher! Even if you know the upcoming material, you might teach something incorrectly, necessitating a lot of unlearning, a very difficult task.
7. Constant review is one of Dr. Suzuki's main points which often gets slighted. The more you review, the higher the child's ability becomes. The last three pieces should be played everyday.
8. The advance student should take a new look at earlier level pieces. If a child is in Book 6, he should play Twinkle as a Book 6 student with a mature tone and style, not as he played it when he was in Book 1.
9. Our goal with review is to have complete mastery of the pieces; playing a piece should be as easy as talking!
10. Review time should also be fun time. Allow the child to enjoy playing his old pieces without constant correction.
11. Give your total attention to practice. Avoid practice time and places where interruptions can be a problem. Your child will soon see how much value you place on practice by how many interruptions you allow.
12. Do exactly what your teacher says to do during practice! Don't forget or leave out steps or exercise.
13. Don't stop practicing something after one week because the teacher did not tell you to repeat it. If you want to know whether to stop practicing something, ask your teacher.
14. Be careful with reward. Praise, success, and celebrations are very positive motivators. These create a desire from within to strive to continue to improve. External motivators such as "if you do this, I'll give you that" do not work for long without the child demanding larger and larger rewards.

from "A Sound Investment: Getting the Most for Your Time & Money" by James and Jacqueline Maurer