

# A parent's guide for getting your child to practice

## Make practice part of your child's daily routine

Just like brushing their teeth, getting dressed, or doing their homework, practice should be part of your child's daily routine. Have a scheduled time for your child to practice each day for the amount of time agreed on by you, the child, and the teacher.

## Make practice seem fun

Your attitude toward practice will affect your child's attitude toward practice. Make practice time seem like it's the best thing ever!

## Avoid Hovering

It is ok to be in the room while your child practices to keep them on task (especially with younger children) but never hover over them. Hovering over a child will often make them feel like they are being forced to practice and they will give you pushback.

## Never force your child to practice

You should never force a child to practice an instrument. It never works and you will get nothing but pushback, eventually resulting in your child quitting music altogether.

## Make practice fun and silly

One day a week, allow your child to have "free practice." Put the piano metronome on a drum beat or play some of their favorite music and let them jam out to it. "Free Practice Friday" is a great way to start the weekend with a little fun music making.

## Provide performance opportunities

Recitals motivate children to practice because they know they will be performing in front of others, but you don't have to wait around for a studio recital to arrange a performance. Have your children perform the music they are practicing for grandparents or if you have a young child, have them "play a recital" for their stuffed animals.

## Let your child choose what they practice

Allowing your child to have some control over what they are working on in each practice session can make them feel like they are in charge. Pull out their lesson assignment book and go over what they need to practice but let them choose which exercise they want to work on.

## Final Thoughts

Practice is important in any musical development, but some days, it's just not going to happen. If your child is having a bad day and sitting at the piano or in front of a music stand is causing an all-out war in your home, let them take the day off. Pushing the matter will only result in the child being angry and hating practice as well as you being angry and hating practice so wave the white flag and try again tomorrow!