



# Helping Your Child Practice an Instrument

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## Set a Time and a Space for Practice

- Have your child practice the same time each day
- Have a space ready to practice - make it easy to get started
  - Chair, music stand, pencil
  - Supplies for the instrument, tuner, metronome
  - Computer or CD player nearby

## Practice 10-15 minutes, 4-5 days each week.

- “Practice Makes Permanent”
  - The more you do something, the better you do it consistently
  - Several short sessions are better than one long one

## Have a Practice Plan

- Practice should contain:
  - Scales or warm-ups to establish good technique
  - New songs assigned in class
  - Old songs that are favorites or fun and easy to play
- Play along with accompaniment CD or SmartMusic
  - More fun and more effective practice
- Remind your child to practice the assigned exercises and songs
  - Assignments written in lesson book
  - Check Mr. Berlinghof’s Homework Hotline

## Encouragement

- Be patient - don’t step in right away
- Encourage repetition “Do it again”
- Encourage freedom, creativity and exploration on the instrument
- Celebrate success - recitals at home
- Play with friends and family and choose your own music

## Help Care for the Instrument

- Know how to assemble and clean the instrument
  - Read or watch the DVD from the lesson book
- Know the needed supplies and accessories for the instrument
  - Visit a music store or go on-line

### *Practice Aids:*

Accompaniment CD

Essential Elements Book

Private Lessons

Recommended teachers  
available upon request.

Smart Music

[www.smartmusic.com](http://www.smartmusic.com)

Chromatic Tuner

Metronome