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Practice Tips and Suggestions

1. Schedule practice time: the earlier in the day, the better. Divide practice times if possible: ½ in the morning and ½ afternoon

2. *If your hands are cold, warm them under warm water. When seated at the keyboard, take time to adjust posture. Quietly rest ... calm your body ... then begin.*

3. Warm-up with scales and/or warm-up exercises.

4. *Focus on one task at a time. Set a goal.*

Examples:

Play the first line of piece, hands together, with no mistakes.

Play the first two lines (or first page), right hand only, with no mistakes.

5. Practice Slowly!!!! *Much slow practice is required to learn to play the piano!* ;-)

6. *Concentrate! Do not just 'play-through' pieces once or twice and consider that practice. Set a goal, even if it is a short one.*

Examples:

Play the 'C', 5-finger scale, hands separate, no mistakes!

Play the 'C' scale, hands together, slowly, with no mistakes!

7. Work on new pieces first ... work in short sections at a time; or work on difficult sections in previously assigned pieces.

8. *Polish previously assigned piece or pieces.*

9. Review one piece you have previously completed.

10. *End practice on a positive 'note.'* Play a piece you enjoy playing.

11. Keep a practice journal. Write down the minutes you practice daily. Use a calendar or write the minutes practiced in your assignment book.

12. *General practice rule: Each at-home practice session should equal lesson time. For example, a 30-minute lesson requires 30 minutes of at-home practice five or more days a week. For young children, 15 – 20 minutes daily (10 min. a.m. 10 min. p.m., if possible).*

13. Parents: Provide a quiet and easily accessible environment for practice. Encourage! Compliment efforts! Periodically sit with your child, ask them to play a piece just for you, or share (or 'teach' you) something they have learned. Praise! Praise! Praise!

14. *Have Fun!*