

# **A Parent's Guide to Enhancing Your Child's Musical Experiences**

CONGRATULATIONS! Your decision to provide your child with a **quality musical instrument** is an investment in your child's future. In making it possible for your child to play a musical instrument, you are providing the opportunity for self-expression, creativity and achievement.

Numerous studies indicate parental attitude, support and involvement are important factors in a child's ability to successfully learn to play and to enjoy music.

These guidelines are designed to assist you in giving your child the best support possible for his or her musical endeavors. Like any skill, interest counts far more than talent. With the right support from you, playing music will become a natural part of your child's life.

## ***BENEFITS***

### **For Your Child**

Music participation enhances:

- Problem solving
- Teamwork
- Goal-setting
- Self-expression
- Coordination
- Memory skills
- Self-confidence and esteem
- Concentration
- Poise
- and much, much more!

### **For Your Family**

A child's music study also offers opportunities for shared family experiences, including:

- Music event attendance
- Family music making
- Performing for and with family and friends
- Learning about the lives of composers and cultural heritage of many civilizations
- A sense of accomplishment and pride for the entire family

## ***HOW YOU FIT IN***

Your support is an essential element in your child's success with music study.

### **Schedule Practice Times**

Music achievement requires effort over a period of time. You can help your child by:

- Providing a quiet place for practice.
- Remaining nearby during practice times as often as possible.
- Scheduling a consistent, daily time for practice.
- Praising your child's efforts and achievements.

### **In The Event You Elect To Acquire Private Lessons**

Formal music instruction can help your child's progress. In choosing a teacher, consider these points:

- Background and experience
- Comments from other parents and students
- Provisions for sharing music through performance

As your child's band director, Mr. Williams can recommend excellent private teachers in our community.

## **WHAT TO DO**

To give your child the best possible support, you should:

- Encourage your child to play for family and friends.
- Offer compliments and encouragement regularly.
- Expose your child to a wide variety of music, including concerts and recitals.
- Encourage your child to talk with you about his or her lessons.
- Make sure your child's instrument is always in good working condition.
- Allow your child to play many types of music, not just study pieces.
- Listen to your child practice, and acknowledge improvement.
- Help your child build a personal music library.
- Try to get your child to make a minimum two-year commitment to his or her music studies.

## **WHAT NOT TO DO**

Your child's progress will be greatly enhanced if you:

- Don't use practice as punishment.
- Don't insist your child play for others when he or she doesn't want to.
- Don't ridicule or make fun of mistakes or less-than-perfect playing.
- Don't apologize to others for your child's weak performance.
- Don't start your child on an instrument that's in poor working condition.
- Don't expect rapid progress and development in the beginning.

## **IF YOUR CHILD LOSES INTEREST**

In the event that your child loses interest in his or her music studies, don't panic. Discuss the situation with your child to determine why their interest is declining.

- Talk to your child's music teacher to see what might be done to rekindle their enthusiasm.
- Encourage your child to stick with the lessons for an agreed to period of time.
- Offer increased enthusiasm and support.

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## **CREDITS**

This message has been developed by the following organizations in the interest of making music study and participation an enjoyable and richly rewarding experience for children and their families. Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation appreciates the cooperation of these organizations for graciously allowing us to reprint this message.

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