

Lesson 1: Why Play the Piano?

- To provide entertainment in casual settings (like a party) or in formal settings (like a recital or concert) – did you know that even a beginner can entertain?
- To develop an appreciation for music – specifically, for the skill, dedication and creativity needed to compose and create music
- To awaken your natural musical and artistic ability and develop the skills needed to express that ability
- To soothe your soul, relieve stress, relax, obtain an overall sense of well-being and express your emotions
- To tickle your curiosity and improve your sensitivity to nuance
- To promote self-discipline and patience by setting and sticking to a regular practice schedule and by developing good study and work habits
- To increase your self-confidence, your self-esteem and your sense of accomplishment as a result of all your hard work
- To strengthen your hand-eye coordination and improve your fine motor skills
- To develop your understanding of how process relates to product
- To improve your ability to quickly recognize patterns
- To exercise your mind – did you know that children who study music perform better in math and science? Also, keeping your mind active may reduce the chance of Alzheimer's disease.

Children can begin to learn about music from before birth. They are never too young to explore and experiment with it. There are even music lessons available for very young (0-6 years) children and most piano teachers are willing to start formal piano lessons with children who are as young as 6-8 years old.

Also, you are never too old to begin lessons. Many parents start taking lessons when their child does – it allows them to be a better coach for their child during practice time and it might fulfill a life-long dream to play the piano. Other adults take lessons after their children become adults and leave home because they finally have the time to practice!

For the Younger Student

New vocabulary: None

"Playing the piano (and creating music in general) is fun"

- 1) Acquire a selection of toy-quality instruments (drums, bells, horns, keyboard, etc.) and use them to create "music" with your child – maybe even march or dance while creating the music.
- 2) Allow your child to gently "play" the piano – even if it doesn't sound like music to your ears, your child will be learning to explore the process of creating music.
- 3) Take your child to venues where he/she can experience the awe of watching a master musician create music.