

## A PARENT'S GUIDE TO PIANO PRACTICE

Even parents who never learnt piano themselves can help their children practise. One of the biggest ways a parent can help is by establishing a practice routine, right from the start. Most children need reminders to practise, and help following the teacher's instructions. Follow the guidelines below and your child will make great progress and feel confident playing the piano.

### **1. Practice should happen at the same time every day**

Choose a time that you are able to stick to. This could be before school in the morning, after school, after homework is finished, just before dinner; any time that you can be consistent about.

### **2. Follow the tasks in their notebook**

Try to follow my written notes in the student's notebook. Make sure the student practises all the tasks, as I specified. If this takes only 5 minutes that's fine, if it takes 20 minutes that's fine too. The very young ones will not yet have a homework notebook - for them I tend to mark the piece or exercise they are working on with a sticky tab.

### **3. Try to encourage slow practice**

Whenever possible, and especially in the beginning few months, try to sit with your child and encourage them not to rush. You could also try tapping or clapping a steady beat while your child is playing to help them hear the pulse.

### **4. Be their student**

Get them to explain to you what they're working on, how they know what to play etc. Try pointing to symbols and asking them what they mean. This will not only help you to know what's going on, but will reinforce their knowledge.

### **5. Be positive!**

Most importantly, let your child know how much you love hearing them play! This is by far the best way to encourage long term practice. (If they're doing really well with a piece, it's a great idea to arrange a mini-concert, gather round the family so they can show off all their hard work!)