



Fool-Proof Ways To
REALLY Learn Where The
Notes Are

Who are we?

Hello! We are Luke and Lauren Elliot! We are husband-and-wife team, who dreamed up a world where music education is accessible to all.

We are fiercely passionate about inspiring children and their families to love music, and to build it into their lives in a positive way. We have three music degrees between us, over 30 years of teaching experience, and a young family of our own - we understand the importance of connecting with children and helping them to find enjoyment in the things they are learning about.

Why has this book been written?

Because we understand the challenges of navigating the piano! It's a whole new concept for kids, and often for you too. Remembering where the notes are, what they are called, and how they relate to the notes on the page are all very unique challenges.

This book seeks to tackle one of the most fundamental and key problems - how to find the notes on the keyboard, and ensure that you NEVER forget how to locate them!

How to use this e-book:

We have compiled a collection of games and activities to work through together. Do them in any order, and steer towards the things that your child really resonates with. Add 3 mins extra onto the end of your practise sessions, and dedicate it entirely to the ideas here.

Before We Begin:

Ok, so, as tempting as it is, I'm going to ask you a really big favour:

Don't write or stick letter stickers on the keys.

Why? Because then your child will just be looking at the letters, and not at the arrangement of the notes on their keyboard. However fancy the stickers you use, however lovely they look, and however much 'easier' they seem to make it...they detract from looking at the actual piano, and slow down the learning process of discovering where these notes are.

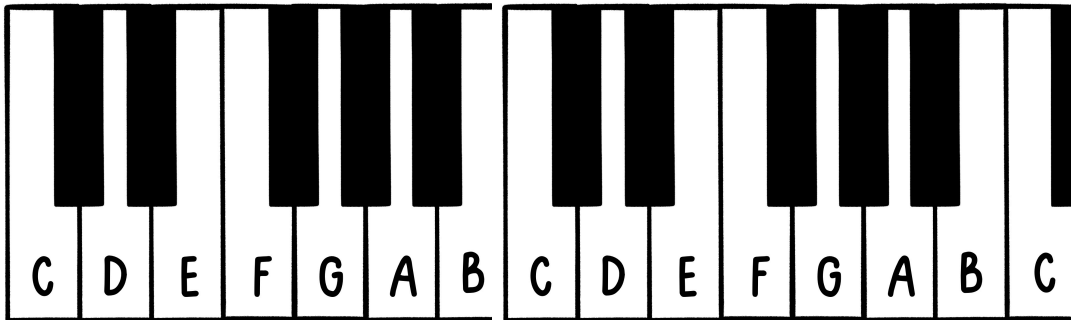
What if you have already done this?

Don't panic! You can undo this, but we would advise doing it gradually. First remove all of the Ds, then, a few days later, the Cs. Gradually remove the remaining letters in the following order: E,F,G,A,B.

Don't take away all of the reference points straight away, or you may risk overwhelming your child. Do it gradually, make it a game, and have a little reward in mind when they finally get rid of the last letter!

I promise you - your child will progress SOOOOO much better without them. They are capable of managing without - trust the process.

The Keyboard



The keyboard is made up of black notes and white notes.

The black notes are divided into groups of 2 or 3, alternating as you move up the keyboard.

'D' is the 'dog' or 'dinosaur' living in the middle of 2 black notes. This is a great first note, and excellent reference point to have.

From here, we can work out the position of any letter! We'd recommend learning C and E next, as a little group around 2 black notes. Next, A and B, as this completes a nice little ABCDE group. Finally, focus in on F and G.

This also corresponds with the order in which we teach children to read notes too!

Activities:

- 1) Practise saying your musical alphabet ABCDEFG, pressing each key as you play it. Time how long it takes to go from the bottom of the keyboard to the top. Can you get faster and faster?
- 2) When number 1 is mastered, reverse it! This is HARD, but really important. On the piano, we move up AND down through the keys, so we need to be able to move forwards and backwards through the alphabet.
- 3) Using pom-poms, ask your child to place them on the notes that you call out. Can they place a pom-pom on all of the Ds? Then move them all of the Cs? Then the Es? How about CDE? Build it up, asking for more complex patterns as they grow in confidence.
- 4) Print and cut out the flashcards on the following page. Hide them around the room and challenge your child to find them. As they find each one, race back to the piano and play it!
- 5) Blindfold your child, or have them close their eyes tight shut! Can they feel for the groups of black keys without looking at them? Can they feel groups of 2 black notes? And groups of 3? Now can they locate the D? Can they count up or down to the other notes?
- 6) Play a familiar piece in a different octave. This means playing the same letters, but in a different part of the keyboard. Can they move from high to low to middle, playing the piece in all different areas?
- 7) Write down the letters of the piano - ABCDEFG. Put a timer on for 5 minutes. How many words can you spell in this time, using just these letters? Write them out and then see if you can 'play' the words you have written.
- 8) 'Forbidden Letter'. Choose a forbidden note or key on the piano. Call out different notes for them to play, and ask them to find the notes as quickly as they can. BUT - if you call the forbidden note, they must put their hands on their head and NOT play it!

AlphabaChallenge

In music, we use the letters A-G to name the notes on the piano.

As fast as you can, can you fill in the gaps:

A _ C D E F G

A B C _ E F G

A B C D E F _

Now try these ones, which are going backwards:

G _ E D _ B A

B A G F _ D C

D _ B _ G _ E _ C _ A



A

B

C

D

E

F

G