



The Ultimate Guide to
Helping Your Child
Succeed in their Piano
Lessons

First of all, congratulations!

You are at the very beginning of a wonderful journey, and such a special part of your son or daughter's childhood. To learn to play an instrument is the greatest gift, and there are so many happy times ahead of you and your child!

We know that it can feel a little overwhelming, especially if you did not had the opportunity to learn to play when you were younger. In this guide, we seek to help you understand how to best support your child, and to give you confidence needed to give them the strongest start to learning to play their instrument.

Anything highlighted in pink is an affiliate link, to take you directly to the place you need to purchase the item shared.

Any questions along to way, ping them over to info@musicmonsters.co.uk

Make sure you are also following us on Instagram (@musicmonstershq), for all of the tips and tricks you need to help your child to thrive!

What do you need?

Starting piano lessons is a bit like preparing for a new school year or signing up for a sport—you don't need everything at once, but a few essentials will help your child feel confident and supported from the very beginning. In this chapter, we'll walk through the practical things you need, what's nice to have, and what you *don't* need (yet).

1. An instrument to practise on

You don't need a grand piano to start—promise! In fact, at Music Monsters, it isn't even essential to have an instrument at all for your first few lessons. We want your child to feel comfortable, keen and excited to learn - before adding pressure of an expensive instrument purchase.

After a few weeks of learning, when you know that they are keen and committed, your child will need something at home to play regularly. Here are your options:

Keyboard

- **Best choice for beginners on a budget.**
- Look for one with **full-size keys** and **touch sensitivity**
- Some brands to consider: Yamaha, Casio, Roland.

The best keyboards on the market right now are (click to open affiliate links):

[Yamaha NP-15 Piaggero Digital Keyboard](#)



If this is over-budget, this is another great option. Keep in mind that this is not touch-sensitive (which means you cannot vary the volume by the

weighting of your fingers), and so it will not last as long before you will need to upgrade:

[Yamaha PSR-F52 Digital Keyboard](#)



💡 **TIP:** If these are a little over-budget, consider buying secondhand. There are lots of options available on Facebook marketplace. Look for Yamaha or Casio, and make sure the keys aren't covered in writing or stickers.

Acoustic Piano (Upright or Grand)

- **Best long-term option.**
- Requires tuning once or twice a year.
- Rich tone and touch are unmatched for developing technique.

[Yamaha B1 Acoustic Piano](#)



Digital Piano

- They require no tuning or maintenance
- They usually have the ability to record, and can be connected to iPads/iPhones
- They have volume control, and you can also plug headphones in!

- They take up less space, and don't need a large room to get the best acoustic. They are also much more portable


Yamaha CLP 825



2. A Dedicated Practice Space

Creating a special practising area is really important - even from day one.

- Set your instrument and books up somewhere clear and uncluttered, away from screens and other distractions
- Keep all materials needed within reaching distance, so that there are no barriers to your child practising. If they need to spend 5 minutes looking for their books before beginning, they are less likely to actually do any practising
- Consider using sticker charts to record and reward practice time in the early days! (Scroll to the end of this ebook for a free one you can stick up)


 **Goal:** Comfort and enjoyment, so that they are keen and excited to spend time here with their instrument

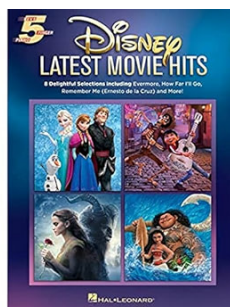
3. Lesson Materials


Your piano teacher will guide you here, but typically, your child will need:

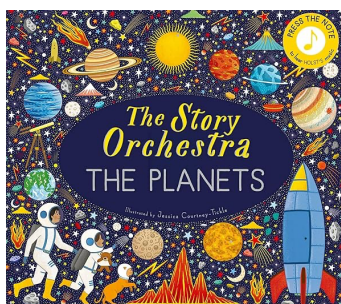
- **A learning book.** At Music Monsters, your child will receive their first book and Passport during their first few lessons. They will work through their book during their lessons, and will be set music to practise at home from here. Their Passport is a sticker book, with stickers and certificates achieved for reaching particular milestones.

- A **practice journal** or notebook. This can be useful for keeping a record of the things they need to practise, and of how much they do throughout the week. (You can purchase a Music Monsters' journal just here - use the code MMNEW to get 20% off your payment: <https://www.musicmonsters.co.uk/product/inspiring-musicians-practice-journal/>)
- Possibly a bag or folder to keep all of their materials in (Music Monsters' bags just here: <https://www.musicmonsters.co.uk/product/music-monster-tote-bag/>)

 **If your child is really keen to explore music that they know and love, these '5 finger books' make brilliant gifts for new learners. You can buy them for 'Frozen', 'Superheroes', 'Taylor Swift' - so many cool themes!**



 You can also inspire them to enjoy music, and give them a little boost of knowledge, with these gorgeous Story Orchestra books. They make beautiful presents! During the first few stages of Music Monsters, we explore '[Carnival of the Animals](#)', '[The Planets](#)', '[Peter and the Wolf](#)', and the '[Four Seasons](#)'.



What You Don't Need (Yet)

Let's save your money and energy by crossing these off the list for now:

- **Stickers or letters stuck on your keys** - Pleaseeeeeee don't do this. I promise, your child to learn to find the notes much much effectively if they do not rely on letters stuck to their keys. Companies that sell stickers are just wasting your money - you absolutely don't need them.
- **Multiple apps** - Learning to play the piano can be a largely screen-free activity. You don't need to follow apps to learn to play.
- **Overly ambitious practice plans** - This is new for you and your child, so keep it low-pressured to begin with. Don't create a practice plan that sets you up to fail - a few minutes several times a week is absolutely fine to get them off to a great start.

How to Practise the Piano at Home (Without any Arguments)

One of the most common questions parents ask is:
“**How should we practise at home?**”


It’s a great question - and the answer might surprise you. Effective piano practice isn’t just about playing the piece from beginning to end over and over. In fact, that approach can lead to boredom, frustration, or even burnout. The goal is **quality over quantity** and making practice a **positive, consistent habit**.

1. Start with a Routine

Just like brushing teeth or packing a school bag, piano practice works best when it becomes a regular part of the day. Waiting until your child "feels like it" usually means it won't happen.

Best practice routines:

- Happen **at the same time every day** (after school, before dinner, etc.)
- Are **short and focused**—for beginners, practise for their age in minutes! e.g. 5 minutes for a 5 year old, etc.
- Include **breaks for fun and celebration**

 **Goal:** Make piano part of the rhythm of daily life—not a last-minute chore.

2. Use the Practice Notes from the Teacher

Each lesson usually comes with a few assignments: maybe a piece to play, a warm-up, a hand position, or a concept to review. Following these notes helps your child focus on the *right things*—not just what sounds the most fun.

If the teacher has sent notes on what to practise:

- Read it together at the start of the session
- Check off each task as it’s completed

- Ask your child to explain what they're working on—it builds confidence and ownership!

3. What Should They Do During Practice?

Here's a simple structure that works well for beginners:

1. Warm-Up


- Finger exercises, note flashcards, or a simple review piece.

2. Work set by the teacher

- Go over what the teacher assigned. Focus on short sections, not the whole piece at once.
- Use repetition, but with intention. (Try 3 correct times in a row.)

3. Fun Time

- Play a favorite piece, explore sounds on the keyboard, or make up a short song.

 **TIP:** End on something successful so they leave practice feeling proud.

4. How to Help as a Parent (Even If You Don't Play Piano)

You don't need to understand music to be a great practice coach. Here's how to support your child:

- **Be nearby:** Younger kids often need a parent to sit with them for structure and motivation.
- **Ask them to teach you:** This boosts their confidence and deepens learning.
- **Use the teacher's notes:** Read what was assigned so you can guide gently.
- **Celebrate effort:** "I love how focused you were today," or "You really worked on that tricky part!"

 **Your encouragement makes all the difference.**

5. Use Tools and Tricks

You can make practice easier and more motivating with some simple tools:

- **Practice chart or stickers:** Track how many days they practised.
- **Timer or sand timer:** Helps visualise the time and makes it feel achievable.
- **Mini goals:** “Let’s play the left hand 3 times without stopping.”

 **Small goals = quick wins = happy kids.**

6. What to Do When They Don’t Want to Practise

This will happen. It's normal. On those days:

- Let them play something fun instead of the assignment.
- Break practice into smaller chunks (e.g., 5 mins now, 5 mins later).
- Remind them it’s okay not to get everything perfect.
- Use a calm tone. Avoid turning music into a power struggle.

 **Some practice is better than none.** It’s about consistency, not perfection.

7. Encourage Independence Over Time

As your child grows, your role will shift from *coach* to *cheerleader*. Gradually, they’ll learn how to manage their own practice time—but they’ll still need reminders, encouragement, and praise from you.

 **Look for signs of progress:**

- Pieces are easier to learn
- They correct their own mistakes
- They start practising without being asked (it will happen!)

