

WOULD YOU RATHER

PRACTICE PIANO... 

BEFORE SCHOOL OR AFTER SCHOOL?



Timing is important.

You know your pianist better than anyone else. If a meltdown is guaranteed after a long day of school, slip in practice before school. After dinner, ask to hear a favorite piece and celebrate what was remembered from the morning practice.

TAKE A BUBBLE BATH BEFORE OR AFTER PIANO PRACTICE?



Allow your pianist to choose when to practice alongside a favorite activity.

A bubble bath, a story read by a parent, a video game...whatever activity is a favorite of your pianist, encourage him to associate practice with that "treat" activity.

PRACTICE WITH MOM OR DAD TODAY?



Your pianist will enjoy the special time alone with you or another care giver at the bench which will also ensure solid practice.

To avoid confrontations or "battles" at the bench, ask your pianist to determine what assignment to practice first. Gamify practice with challenges: "How fast can you find where your hands need to be for this piece?"

START WITH YOUR FAVORITE PIECE OR YOUR HARDEST PIECE TODAY?



Allow your pianist to determine the order of assigned pieces.

At times, your pianist will struggle with a piece. Sometimes it's best to begin with that piece first and then move to easier assignments. Giving your pianist the chance to make decisions will motivate her to take ownership of her practice.

ADD M&M'S OR SMARTIES TO YOUR PRACTICE PILLBOX THIS WEEK?



Keep track of daily practice with a simple system to develop a habit of consistent practice.

Your pianist is developing a new habit of daily practice. Providing an immediate reward after practice will let your pianist associate practice with positive reinforcement and will help him keep track of how many practice sessions occurred during the week. More practice = more progress!

INVITE A STUFFED ANIMAL OR A TOY TO BE YOUR PRACTICE BUDDY TODAY?



Practicing the piano can get lonely.

Ask your pianist to invite a favorite stuffed companion to sit at the bench and make practicing feel like an adventure with a good friend.



WHAT TO ASK

after a piano lesson instead of "HOW WAS YOUR LESSON?" 

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE ACTIVITY?



Capitalize on what was fun at the lesson and ask your pianist why he enjoyed it.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO TEACH ME THIS WEEK?



Encourage your pianist to teach you a new concept learned at the lesson as this will help her master it.

WHAT NEW PIECE WILL YOU ADD TO YOUR PLAYLIST?



Ask your pianist to compile a list of favorite pieces and encourage him to play them frequently.

WHAT GAMES DID YOU PLAY?



Learn about the games played in the lesson so that you can generate similar games to play during home practice.

WHAT PRACTICE STRATEGY WILL YOU USE THIS WEEK?



Help your pianist recall the strategies discussed at lessons which will encourage her to use them throughout the practice week ahead.

WHAT DID YOU PLAY THAT WENT REALLY WELL?



Focus on the positives. When your pianist feels he is succeeding, he'll be more engaged in the process of learning and progressing at the keys.

WHAT WAS HARD THAT YOU MAY HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT AT YOUR NEXT LESSON?



Not everything may be fully understood at a lesson. If something seems hard for your pianist to play or understand, help her formulate a question to ask the teacher at the next lesson.

DID YOU REMEMBER ALL YOUR BOOKS?



Yes, it's a little late to ask this AFTER a lesson but checking to see if your pianist was prepared and acknowledging efforts to bring ALL books to a lesson ensures the best lesson experience for your pianist and his teacher!

