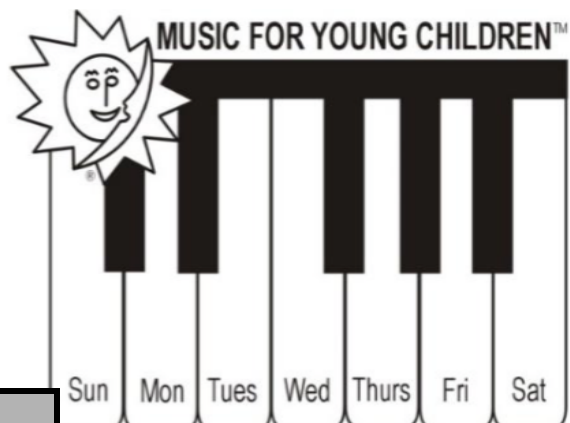




Level: Sunbeams 3

Lesson: 8

Practicing: Colour a piano key for every day you practice. 5 Keys=Sticker



ACTIVITY	DIRECTIONS	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Keyboard 	Warmups: W-35-36: A minor harmonic with chords - BROKEN triads BONUS - try CAT Cadence! W-54 a minor K-1 – play it in a minor NEW: K-15 – only play this one hands together - try counting 1+2+3+ NEW: K-16,17: Hand separate. Review: **Calico Cat: entire song this week! BONUS: W-15, KS-58,59							
Tinsheet 	Place A minor natural, harmonic (G#), and melodic (F#,G#) Find: Green (G#DE), Blue (ADF), and Red (ACE)							
Singing 	Solfege: Sing do re me sol la, and la sol, me, re, do, and try to find on piano (CDEGA, AGEDC) FLASHCARDS: Do flashcard review.							
Listening 	L-6							
Rhythmic Ensemble 	E-13 Amusement. Play with your castanet. Rhythm story: use a "super Ti-Ti"							
Homework 	Page: 17 (find two places for each note) 30 (On bottom "write the following notes an octave lower...") 80 (Draw flats) 193 (answer the questions. Email me if you are unsure!) Bonus: 175							
Toolbox 	A minor cadence							

Practice tips for partners: The most valuable reward for your child at this age is YOUR attention! Value this. This will not necessarily extend into the teenage years! But the time you spend now will build a relationship that can withstand the stresses of the teen years.

HOW TO PRACTISE THE PIANO EFFECTIVELY

Learning a New Song

Break song into logical sections

- you may choose to learn all the RH (right hand) sections
- then the LH (left hand) sections
- then proceed to playing HT (hands together) section by section

“OR”

- you may choose to learn section one RH
- then section one LH
- then section one HT
- then proceed to section two and repeat process

The individual piece may determine which approach to use.

Starting a New Song or New Section

- clap and say rhythm words ‘**out loud**’!!! (or use your castanet)
- point and name notes

(do not proceed to touch the piano until you can do the above)

NOW - play and say rhythm words as many times as you need to get it correct two times in a row before proceeding on to the next section to practise

- give yourself a checkmark or a small sticker for a learned section
- when you come to practise the next day start with a one time review of the previously learned section and if you still remember it fairly well, proceed on to your next section for “work”. Work until you have it – don’t give up until you have improved by at least one section.
- then you may move to another song

How to Use Your Practise Time Wisely

- start with your scales, triads, etc. Look at the book only to check your notes. DO NOT read these from your books, know them in your heads and in your fingers. Again, play these each day until you have them without mistakes, then proceed to the next one
- proceed to song #1 (the song you’ve had the longest) – complete a section or two
- proceed to song #2 – complete a section or two, etc.
- always play every song, every day (you may target one with a greater effort, but don’t choose only one song to work on per day)

Do not stop practising until you can say, “I have improved today!”

Perfecting a Song

Once you have worked your sections and you know the entire song HT, continue to practise to perfect it as a complete song. Watch for:

rhythm - when perfecting a song, make sure you have the correct rhythm – count or say rhythm words “OUT LOUD” all the time

tempo – try to increase your tempo to the suggested speed

dynamics - when perfecting a song, check that you are using the correct “dynamics”

fingering – use the suggested fingering, it is there to help you

articulation – are you playing legato smooth phrases and slurs, or did you play ‘hot’ staccato notes

rests – make sure your hand is not ‘resting’ on the note, but rather ‘lift’ your hands as rests are ‘silent’ beats

memorization – try to play the song without your book

Should Partners Practise with their Children?

- all the time? If you want good results? - YES
- however, children at this level now often want some independence and sitting with them all the time might be in a perfect world only
- therefore, try to practise with them on day 1 and 2 to get them started right
- then on practice days 3,4,5 let them practise on their own, but before they finish they should play their songs once for you (if possible) to ensure progress is being made

*** I challenge each Partner to practise with their child every day for the next week, teaching them “how to practise” as described above and I know you will be pleased with the results.

*** Every time I work with a child at solo time it takes them only 3-5 minutes to perfect a section. You could be doing this with your child every day and have their songs come back without mistakes in one or two weeks at the most. Let’s try for some greater results.

*** Good practising helps the child’s confidence and makes you feel better too. Music is not ‘instant’. It is a skill that is developed precept upon precept. Learn this week’s lesson and we can add to it next week. Don’t learn it and you will struggle.

There are not many things in life that our kids have to work at on a daily basis to improve themselves. So take advantage of this opportunity to develop work habits in your kids at an early age. Only people who know how to work will be getting the jobs of the future.