

## THREE STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE PIANO PRACTICE

### ➔ Regular Routines



Short, focused, and regular visits to the piano help your children retain and understand what they are learning, while making the most of their short attention spans.

Setting a regular time of day when piano practice happens “no matter what” will ensure daily practice routines are easy for your children to maintain. For busy families, I suggest establishing a morning practice routine.

### ➔ Friendly Practice Environments



Placing your piano in an easy-to-access location increases the likelihood that your children will practice more frequently as they go about their days.

Find a balance between shoving the piano in the basement vs. putting the piano in the center of your most-used room. Your piano should be located in a comfortable area, close to where the family is, but away from major distractions. Your children do not want to be isolated during practice time – but they also do not want to compete with your range hood and washing machine.

### ➔ Practice Helpers



Up until the age of 11, your children will need hands-on help with home practice. And even though you may not read music or play the piano, your assistance is still very much needed!

Parental help can take the form of reading lesson notes, organizing practice time, providing encouragement through difficult sections or situations, and seeking out answers for “I’m stuck on this” problems. Your help at home will make a substantial difference in your children’s progress.



## THE SECRETS OF PIANO PRACTICE... REVEALED

Piano lessons are unique from almost any other after-school activity because piano practice sessions happen without an instructor or teacher. Soccer, baseball, dance, and even art classes include practice time as part of the program. The nature of these activities makes participating in practice sessions straightforward.

When it comes to piano lessons, there are no set practice times; it is up to you and your children to establish these routines. While this requires a little extra effort up front, teaching your children the skills they need to structure and engage in independent study will result in a wealth of benefits that extend beyond the piano and into many areas of their lives.

On this page you'll find three strategies for helping your children become independent and effective in their home piano practice.