

CHOOSING THE VIOLIN

Congratulations! You and your child have chosen to play the violin. For generations, hopeful parents have started their children on violin study. Many have later said, "If only I had approached it differently, my child would have had a better chance at success." Who among us does not know someone who has nightmarish memories of being forced to take violin lessons? This sad outcome could have been avoided.

If your child starting violin is younger than 7, they should have an ability to focus, good listening skills, at least a ten-minute attention span, and most importantly, an interest in and desire to learn the violin. Sometimes the attraction and novelty of the shiny instrument can be enticing but not necessarily the right choice.

Be willing to sit with your child when they practice and practice in 5-10 minute sessions. Many parents have found success with renting an instrument for themselves as well and taking the lesson and practicing along with the child.

If you are willing to give three months of dedicated and well-supervised structure, and can set it up so that the child can stop with dignity after a three month trial period without feeling like a failure, it will end up as a win-win either way.

Community Center programs and music store classes are great venues for finding group or individual violin lessons. Be sure to read online reviews and ask for references.