

STARTING LESSONS

You can find yourself a fantastic violin and locate the perfect teacher, have a very talented student, and still have complete failure in the violin experience.

The structuring of the lesson experience, including everything from the time of the lesson to the location to the structuring of the lesson can make a difference.

Finding a good time for the lesson is essential. It is important to get into the teacher's schedule promptly, as good times get taken quickly. Every parent knows that their child has varying levels of energy depending on the time of day. It is essential to honor that time. It is also up to your discretion whether you schedule lessons weekly or every other week, and half hour verses hour.

Lessons at your home can be more expensive but worthwhile in terms of productivity and success. If there is a good place which is private and away from distractions, this can be optimal. You are not transporting the child to yet another event, and you can observe the lesson from the other room without being right in the same space.

If you can get a teacher who is willing to come to your house, that is a good find. More likely, however, you will be at their studio, music store, or house. It is good to have a nutritious snack ready for the child as you transport them to the lesson. Do not cancel unless *absolutely* necessary. Insist that your teacher is consistent as well.

Many people will think of cancelling if the child hasn't practiced. This is actually a reason to *not* cancel!

Don't stop lessons in the summer. It may seem like a good idea at first, but after the short-lived novelty of "relaxation" wears off and the traditional week long trip is over, kids are bored. Summer lessons are a great time to grow and develop disciplined practice. Likewise, a missed summer of lessons leads to backsliding and loss of interest.

Growth , Transitions, Plateaus- To quit or continue!

We would like to assume that all teacher are completely honest and interested in the progress and well-being of their students. Parents depend on the teacher to be honest about whether it is happening or not. The reality is that some teachers will sustain lessons for a student who is not succeeding for income reasons.

It is essential for the parent to keep tabs on the success of the lesson so that parent and student are not misled or strung along.

Musical growth and success is different for every student, and a flat plateau of little progress or frustration and tears often precedes a burst in skill. So be careful not to give up without really considering where things are.

Be aware that it is not unusual to change teachers on the way and a good and earnest teacher will be forthright with you in transition.

It also sometimes makes sense to take a “break” from lessons

Commented [1]:

This appears in lesson 9. Which document would you prefer to keep this on?

Added Value Lessons of Violin Study:

It is okay to learn something new.

Learning doesn't happen instantly

It is okay to try even if you aren't sure.

It is okay to make a mistake.

Being corrected does not mean you are a bad student.

It feels good to do things right.

Even 20 minutes of practice can make you a better player.

Aids For Enhancing Lessons

The following is a list of ideas that I consider invaluable in maximizing productivity of the child's lesson experience.

1. Make sure the child has a technique book, a fun song book, and a notebook for lesson assignments, as well as a pencil.
2. Acquire or create a set of musical flash cards (see [Appendix](#)).
3. Have the child keep track of practice on a practice record card (see [Appendix](#)).
4. Consider recording lessons on your phone.

Commented [2]:
Have you one of these?

5. It is important to remember that music lessons, aside from their intrinsic value, help build listening skills, spatial reasoning, self-discipline and self-esteem.

