



8 Ways Parents Can Help Their Music Student at Home



Commit Long-term

Learning to play a musical instrument is much like acquiring a new language - it requires patience, persistence, and consistent effort over time. Progress may seem slow at first, but with regular practice and a long-term mindset, meaningful achievement will come. As a parent, your encouragement and support are vital. Help your child stay committed by reminding them of the bigger picture and celebrating small milestones along the way. It typically takes 1-2 years of steady practice to see real growth, so don't be discouraged by early challenges. Stay the course, and resist the urge to let them give up too soon - your belief in their potential can make all the difference. One day, they'll look back with gratitude for your support in helping them persevere.

Encourage Daily Practice

Encourage your child's practice time to be at the same time and place every day. Daily practice should be like brushing your teeth, seamlessly fitting into the daily routine.

Provide a Designated Practice Space

It is helpful if you encourage your child to have a space designated for practice, away from distraction, electronic devices and other family members. Keeping your child's instrument in a space where it isn't easily forgotten is also helpful.

Be an Active Participant

Your child will be more likely to practice efficiently and regularly if you take an active interest in what they are doing. Pull up a chair and listen to them at least a couple of days a week. Ask them questions such as 'What are you working on?', 'What parts are the most challenging for you?', 'What's your favourite piece?', 'How does the music make you feel?'

Have Patience & A Positive Attitude

One of the most helpful (and most challenging) things to do is to have patience and a positive attitude as your child practices their instrument. You will hear many 'interesting' and possibly unrecognisable tunes as your child practices their instrument regularly in the early stages. Remember, with dedicated and FREQUENT practice you will soon hear the difference!

Get Involved & Stay Informed

The best way to stay involved is to read correspondence, check lesson notes, add performances to the diary, ask questions of the teacher if you're not sure about something, and ensure students are prepared for lessons with appropriate books, equipment and a suitable good quality instrument.

Listen to Quality Music

The best way for your child to learn what a good, characteristic tone on their instrument sounds like is to listen to quality music and performing artists. Ask the teacher for some recommendations!

Attend Live Performances

Hearing and experiencing live musical performances is inspiring to young musicians. Have they seen the Sunshine Coast Symphony Orchestra perform live? How about a local band? Consider taking your child to a performance at school like Live @ The Hangar or have them attend a Masterclass. Having music in their lives one way or another will improve wellbeing and will be a lifelong skill they will be grateful for.