

5 Ways to get the Most out of Your Music lessons:

1. **Starting at the right age:** starting at the right age for children is a key element of the success of their lesson. Some children are put into lessons too soon and consequently this backfires and causes a negative response.
 - a. Piano/Keyboard: We have determined that five years old is the youngest age that we start children for private lessons.
 - b. Voice lessons: We recommend seven to ten years old as the starting age for private lessons.
2. **Insist on private lessons when learning a specific instrument:** When learning how to play an instrument, private lessons are a cut above, because it is hard to miss anything. For the entire lesson, the student is the primary focus and this is where we have seen the best results.
3. **Take lessons in a professional teaching environment:** Having an environment that is focused on music education is more beneficial than just having a qualified teacher. A professional school environment produces better results in a half hour to one hour since the only focus time is learning music.
4. **Make practicing easier:** One of the main problems with music lessons is the toils of practicing and the fight between parents and students to practice everyday.
 - a. Time: A time should be set to practice everyday at the same time so that it becomes part of a routine or habit.
 - b. Repetition: This method is used quite often with beginners. For example, practice this piece four times everyday and this scale, five times a day. This causes the child's attention to focus away from the amount of time they are practicing their instrument.
 - c. Rewards: This works well for both for children and adult students. Praise tends to be the most coveted award. There is no substitute for a pat on the back for a job well done.
5. **Use recognized teaching materials:** Professional music educators have developed some excellent material for students in a variety of situations. These materials have been researched and are continually upgraded and improved to make learning easier.