

How Do I Know If My Child Is Ready For Suzuki Music Lessons?

- My child is between the ages of 2.5 and 6 years old.
- I feel that I understand the core principles of Suzuki Philosophy.
- We have 5-10 minutes that can be devoted to **daily** practice.
- I understand that we will work in tiny steps with one focal point at a time.
- We have purchased the Suzuki recording and have established a daily listening routine.
- We have observed group and individual classes at the studio.
- After observing a few classes at the studio, my child shows an intense desire to participate while observing classes. They clap the Twinkle rhythms at home and sing the songs they hear at the studio.
- I understand that Suzuki Lessons are more than music lessons. **Our first goal is to develop good manners, listening skills, life skills and excellent character. Music comes second.**
- I understand my role as a Suzuki Parent:**
 - I am willing to read about the Suzuki Method.
 - I will play the recording daily for my child.
 - I will be attentive during lessons and take notes. It is not my child's responsibility to remember every detail from the lesson.
 - I will guide daily practice at home.
 - I will ask my teacher questions as they arise and I will communicate our struggles.
 - I will not interrupt the lesson. I am there to observe my child and the teacher so that I can be a good home teacher.
 - I understand that I may need to help my child during **group classes**.
 - I will work within my child's attention span. No more, no less. Keep it short.
 - I am willing to approach learning with the same attitude as with teaching my child to use the toilet. No overly harsh judgements. I will remain cool, calm, collected and lovingly supportive. No yelling, no punishments for mistakes in music study.
- I understand my teachers expectations regarding behavior and ability:**
 - I believe that children should be educated from their current level of ability.
 - I don't expect full, focused participation 100% of the time. We work within your child's time line. When they are done for the day, the lesson is over.
 - I do expect that children will need guidance in manners, listening and following directions. While the poor behavior doesn't offend me, I will work with parents to develop better skills in these areas. **I don't believe that children need to be proficient in these areas before starting lessons. It is my job to help parents develop these skills in their children.**
 - Let's work together for the children. Children rarely listen to their own parents. It's my job to help bridge that gap and to help families communicate more effectively.
 - Somedays children are not willing to listen or participate. When this occurs the lesson will end. Children are encouraged to observe the class instead- we still learn from observation.
 - Siblings are very welcome at our studio, provided they are not disruptive.