

Edmonton Suzuki

PIANO SCHOOL

The Listening Environment

“Listening until we can remember is not enough, we must listen until we can’t forget” – Suzuki

The Suzuki Approach, or the Mother Tongue Method, evolved from Dr. Suzuki’s research into how children learn to speak their first language. Children learn their mother tongue with relative ease because they hear it being spoken all day long, every day. Similarly, the more frequently students listen to recordings of the pieces they are learning the easier it will be for them to learn to play with ease, accuracy, and expression.

How to Listen

- Passive Listening
 - Music is played quietly, in the background
 - This general listening is encouraged for beginners, who should be immersed in the sounds of the music they are learning,
- Active Listening
 - Targeted, focused attention on the music
 - Older students will listen to music with a goal in mind (clapping to the rhythm of the music, listening for a specific detail as they follow along to the music, etc.)

Where to Listen

- Anywhere!
- Throughout the home
- In the child’s room
- In the car

When to Listen

- Whenever possible!
- In the morning
- On the drive to and from school
- At mealtime
- At playtime
- At bath and bedtime
- Overnight

What Should We Listen To?

- Your Suzuki volume of repertoire
- Other Suzuki volumes
- Supplemental Listening:
 - Explore music of all genres
 - Share your favourite music with your children
 - With young children, sing and dance along with family favourites. Listen to the same album often!
 - Some classical starting points:
 - Benjamin Britton’s *Guide to the Orchestra*
 - Saint-Saens’ *Carnival of the Animals*
 - Prokofiev’s *Peter and the Wolf*
 - Classical Kids Series (*Beethoven Lives Upstairs*, etc.)
- Music Recommended by Your Teacher (ESPS also maintains a lending library – speak with your teacher about what is available to borrow)