



Twinkling The Ivories

November 2014

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7 Tips to Make Practices Successful

At our Annual General Meeting and Parent Talk in September, Suzuki mom and grandmother Eileen Christensen shared with us some of her tried and true ideas for ensuring success at practice time. Here are some of her best tips:

1. **Learn to make practice time efficient.** Plan the practice ahead of time. If you need help, ask your teacher to help you create a plan.
2. **Avoid arguments with your child.** Anticipate ahead of time what your child is going to say and think of responses that will not lead to arguments. One mother wrote a list of twenty responses she could give her teen-aged daughter and then memorized the list. It included responses like "That's interesting.", "I didn't know you felt that way." "I've never looked at it that way before." And, when all else fails: "Oh."
3. **Make up games.** For example, put all of the weekly practice points on slips of paper and have the child draw each slip out of a container and practice what the paper says. Sometimes this is easier than practicing what YOU say.
4. Try to **practice at the same time every day** so that practice time becomes a habit.
5. **Avoid interruptions.** Don't answer the phone; let the caller leave a message. Give your child your undivided attention. Teach other children to write out their questions so that you can answer with a simple "Yes", "No" or "Later".
6. **Have a response or gimmick ready** for the child who won't want to begin the practice.
7. Read Edmund Sprunger's book "**Helping Parents Practice: Ideas for Making it Easier.**" If you have already read it, read it again. It is the best book I have ever read about piano practice.

Need more great practice ideas? Take a look at our latest collection of EVEN MORE GREAT PRACTICE IDEAS contributed by our ESPS students and families. You can find it on our website.

HELP WANTED: ESPS is still looking for volunteers to work at our casino on Friday January 23rd and Saturday January 24th, 2015. If you are available to help, please contact Kim at 780.488.0548.

Welcome to Teacher Brad Heintzman

Edmonton Suzuki Piano School extends a warm welcome to Brad Heintzman, who will be teaching individual lessons in the Mill Woods area.

Brad Heintzman first discovered his love of music at the age of five when he started taking piano lessons. His piano studies include Grade Ten at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto and a double major in composition and jazz piano performance at Grant MacEwan College studying with the likes of Charles Austin and Tommy Banks. Brad has completed his Book One Suzuki teacher training with Jane Kutscher Reed at Calgary's Mount Royal College.

In the last 20 years Brad has taught piano, musical theatre classes and voice lessons. His performance experience includes being the musical director with several community theatre groups. He plays in numerous party bands and jazz ensembles performing throughout western Canada. He also lends a hand writing arrangements and is the director of the worship team at his church.

Brad's two children are currently studying piano in the ESPS program. He has also taught them cornet and along with his wife Barbara have formed a family band. They enjoy entertaining at church, retirement homes and community centers. Other interests include hockey, coaching his son's soccer team and assisting his wife's business "Photography by Barbara".

Congratulations to Our Great Practice Ideas Winners!

At our recent Fall Workshop, we ran a contest for our students and parents looking for great practice ideas and tips that we could use and share with all of our ESPS families. Congratulations to our winners, Ephraim, Mae, Ini, Colin, Muskaan, Abigail and Ellie, who were randomly selected in a draw. Watch for this complete collection of great practice ideas on our website or at your teacher's studio

In the meantime, consider trying some of these great practice ideas at your house:

- *We like to take body breaks when sitting still gets too hard. We have popsicle sticks for practice points, but also for activities that get us off the piano bench for a moment, like giving someone a hug, or doing some jumping jacks*
- *Play "air piano" – play the notes in the air while you are listening to the CD.*
- *We roll the dice to find out how many repetitions we need to do.*

2014/2015 Calendar

January 23 & 24, 2014 ESPS Casino, Casino Edmonton, Argyll Road

February 1, 2015 Graduation Ceremony at Muttart Hall

February 8, 22, and March 1, 2015 Winter Recitals at Suzuki Charter School

March 8, 2015 ESPS at the ESO Event

March 14, 2015 Spring Festival at Suzuki Charter School

April 12, 2015 Graduation Ceremony at Muttart Hall

May 3, 2015 Groups Concert at Suzuki Charter School

June 7 & 14, 2015 June Recitals at Convocation Hall & Muttart Hall

June 21, 2015 Graduation Ceremony at Muttart Hall

November 2014 Graduations

Congratulations to the following students for their hard work and well-deserved graduations:

Volume 1

Owen Gilchrist
Emmett Kenwell
Kaitlyn Polzin
Jaxon Stecyk
Hannah Stedall
Victoria Sychuk
Rebekah Thomas
Loo Kai Yin

Volume 2

Anita Guo
Carter Kenwell
Isabelle Suen
Alexandra Sychuk

Volume 3

Chloe Amodio
Evan Holt
Alex Lee
Timothy Lu
Hannah VandenBorn

Volume 4

Jennifer Li
Gabriella Poworoznik

Volume 6

Vivian Chan

*Don't hurry don't rest.
Without stopping, without
haste, carefully taking one
step at a time will surely
get you there.*

Dr. Shinichi Suzuki