

## START GOOD ROUTINES THAT MAKE SENSE AND RELIEVE STRESS:

### DO NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONE IN THE LESSON!

Parents are active observers. You do not need to be the piano expert, but you must help your child to plan to make success happen by following the lesson closely.

### **Make sure that you plan your goals and chart your progress all the way through Semester one.**

It is one thing to have summer learning loss, but it is another whole huge loss to your entire year, if you do not establish your practice and your listening routines in the fall right away. There are holidays every month and the fall has many to enjoy.

- **Take the holiday! and then immediately restart your routines. Don't fall to disorganization. How you end November, often tells how you will end up in June.**

Think of this: Piano ON for learning success, and Piano OFF for refresh.

Then, Piano BACK ON!

The students who plot their home-work steps based upon the lesson instruction, always learn and they have fun doing that. The parent's attitude becomes the attitude of the home and the child.

- **Believe in the lesson!** Children learn SO much faster than you or I can do!
- **The teacher knows HOW and WHEN to take short cuts. TRUST your lesson and simply follow the ideas.**
- The teacher has worked out the pedagogy steps to ensure that the student can learn stress free during the lesson, but this will NOT work if the parents have not been part of the lesson, or part of the organization at home. **The Grown-ups are the ones in charge of organization. Parents take the notes in the lesson, NOT the teacher.**
- The teacher is busy with your child's success during the lesson.
- **Parents plan** the listening to the CD's or to the YouTube excerpts at home. Music is a language, and it must be heard to be understood. This is what makes learning ease. You would never expect to learn another language without listening to regularly. Set up a listening routine at home while heading to bed, or while getting up in the morning, while you are doing other routines; just add the music that your child is learning automatically.
- **The work at home must mimic the lesson.** The Lesson is to teach with ease, so copy that.
- **Parents, please don't re-invent the wheel...** Just take notes in the lesson and then discuss the lesson at home. There needs to be the same follow up between the lesson and the home-work. The children get very confused without this support. Only a grown up can see to this. We will work as a team, then, and the child will have success, and it will come with ease.
- **Students need our support structures to be the same.** Don't do things the way you used to do things. Simply do what happened in the lesson! This organization cannot be left up to the children. You will feel so much relief and the children will, too, and you will experience so much surprise and happy success if you do what happened in the lesson.

### Students who set aside 10 minutes:

- **In the morning** for a very quick practice, have a much nicer afternoon without stress when they get home from school. You can have a family sharing concert of favourites in the evening. What is old and favourite, what's new and not quite "there yet"? Oops, if it is too old, you may just forget something, don't worry. Check your lesson notes! Be brave and share discussions. This will build their confidence and they're joy.
- **What do you practice?** The discussions from your lesson!
- **REVIEW your lesson discussions in the evening AFTER your lesson.** THEN, you can begin practicing the next morning with clear directions that will last for the whole week. Do not waste your lesson. Talk about it that night and go from strength to strength.
- Parents, please take notice of what happened in the lesson. You cannot practice without this plan. You cannot make it up as you go along. Your teacher is busy teaching your child and it is hands on for her, so take the notes yourself. Without the parent's notes, you will waste your lesson, and your child will be stressed and confused. That is the antithesis of how I teach. I want you to avoid that! I know how to avoid that problem. Go from strength to strength!
- Tell your child, it's ok, it's right here in the notes. Just do what the teacher said. This takes the stress OFF the parent, too! You can say, "see what Miss Bambie says..."
- Take 10 – 20 minutes to listen to the recordings of your pieces so that you are learning! This cuts down on all the stress for the child because they are learning the music language by learning to listen to the music. **Parents must take charge of building a listening routine.**

Make sure to prioritize your piano time. Please remember that Semester One goes by quickly BUT, Semester Two goes by very, very quickly with holidays every month, spring break trips, school trips and graduations planned.

I remind you of this every year, and in June you always tell me that you noticed how fast the spring went, after it has happened!

Make a plan. Take a holiday. Refresh the plan.  
This always brings success and it plans some fun, too!

