

FAQ

What do you expect of me as a parent?

It's a famous saying in my profession, that teaching piano is a three-legged stool – Child, Teacher, and Parent. So your participation is not just requested, it required! Practice at home is crucial for a child to feel accomplished and to have pride in playing the piano. It is up to you to provide a reasonable space and equipment (see studio policy for ideas) for this to happen. A child will not practice consistently without parental guidance, so you need to be actively involved in leading your child to regular practice. I am always here to help with ideas and information, so don't hesitate to ask!

May I sit in on lessons?

You may absolutely sit in on lessons! I have an open-door policy and you may drop by anytime. I also have a second room where you may sit in the comfortable cushioned rocker and use the internet, or read (no phone calls here as it's distracting to the lessons).

For young beginning students, I require that one parent be present in the lesson for at least six months. I use Piano Safari, a method that teaches rote pieces (by ear) along with pieces that are read. A parent must understand what we are doing and be able to assist the child with online help and videos.

Do I need an instrument to start lessons?

Yes, you do! Your child will need an acoustic piano in good working order in a relatively quiet (although not completely isolated) space to work. Beginning students may start on a full-sized digital piano, but will be expected to shift to an acoustic piano no later than after 2 years of study. There is no comparison between acoustic and digital in terms of how your child will feel playing real wood and strings verses plastic and digital sounds.

You'll also need a proper bench at the correct height for your child.

Please ask me for advice and help if you'd like.