

FUN TIPS

1. Ask your child to show you what they learned in their lesson as soon as you get home. This reinforces the concepts they've been introduced to and gets them over the hump of starting a new week's lesson.
2. Let your child "play with" the instrument, as well as "play it." Let their creativity out. Have your child make sound effects or make up a tune to a story they know well, or even better, have them make up their own story!
3. Don't always start at the beginning of the piece!
4. Record the progress. Make an effort to get a visual recording (perhaps on your phone). Record your child practicing a piece. Two or three weeks down the road, record them again, and play both clips to see the progress they're making.

About Charles J. Rufino

Master Violin Maker Charles J. Rufino studied violin making and restoration for ten years in some of the finest studios of Europe and the United States. Since 1983 from his own studios in Huntington, Long Island and New York he has made instruments considered by experts to be the equal of old Masters. Today, Rufino instruments are used by discerning musicians and heard live and in recordings of concerts and television, movie and Broadway soundtracks.

He established *The Long Island Violin Shop* to share his expertise with string teachers and their students. The *LIVS* specializes in excellent affordable instruments and expert services for serious young string players. Mr. Rufino is a member of The American Federation of Violin and Bow Makers, *L'Entente Internationale des Maitres Luthiers et Archetiers d'Art*, and the String Industry Council of the American String Teachers Association (ASTA) He is a well known spokesman for his art, and presents an illustrated PowerPoint lecture ***The Art and Lore of the Violin*** numerous times each year to student and professional groups.



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The Long Island
VIOLIN SHOP
CHARLES RUFINO VIOLIN MAKER

ESSENTIAL PRACTICE HABITS FOR THE YOUNG MUSICIAN

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(<http://www.npr.org/blogs/deceptivecadence/2013/09/03/216906386/10-easy-ways-to-optimize-your-music-practice>)

SCHEDULING PRACTICE TIME

Make practicing part of your child's daily routine. It may not seem like much can be accomplished with 10 minutes of practice, but early on, practice is mostly about developing a routine. Slowly add time building stamina for longer practice times.

For the beginner, 10 focused minutes is perfectly acceptable. Older, more serious or experienced students might say they want to learn 10 lines of music, and maybe 40 minutes would do the job.

CONTROL THE ENVIRONMENT

The quieter and more peaceful the environment, the more your child can focus on practice. If you don't have a designated room, find a quiet corner of the living room and set it up with a stand, chair and special light or perhaps a special inspirational picture on the wall.

INCENTIVIZE WITH GAME

PENNY GAME: can be used where mastery of a difficult passage requires repetition. Set 3 pennies on the left side of the music stand. Each time a passage is played correctly, move one penny to the right side of the stand. Work to play the passage correctly 3 times in a row!

SET INCREMENTAL GOALS

Transform practicing into a rewarding activity.

- Practice the first four measures without any mistakes.
 - Intonation
 - Tempo
 - Dynamics

Knowing the musical goal of each daily practice session motivates your young musician to be as efficient as possible.

UTILIZE TECHNOLOGY

There are a number of free and or inexpensive apps you can download to further engage your young musician!

- Music Practice Tracker
- Metronome
- My Note Games



CELEBRATE SUCCESS

When your child finally gets it (whether it's "Mary had a little Lamb" or a Beethoven Sonata) show genuine pride and excitement. Accomplishments, no matter how small, are always something to be celebrated.

FINALLY

Frustration is normal! Almost every child will hit a wall of some kind. One of the benefits of persevering through those times is that the child learns problem-solving. Something that seemed impossible to play two weeks ago is suddenly coming much easier. The learning process is rarely a linear line – with music or anything – so don't let bumps in the road stop you!

