

Regular practice is the key to successful progress in playing a musical instrument. In order that you can help your child to practice effectively you might like to consider the following ideas as a starting point for your child.

1. Do a little practice every day. Small, daily amounts of regular practice are better for you than trying to do too much in one go.
2. Practice the bits that your teacher has identified for you. Check what is in your practice diary or notebook and don't just start at the beginning of the piece every time.
3. What you can't play slowly you can't play fast. Make sure that the difficult bits are learnt properly before trying to play the whole piece quickly.
4. Practice in small chunks so that your mind does not wander. Make sure that you are concentrating all the time.
5. Practice sight reading on a regular basis and force yourself to keep going when you do this. The rhythm is far more important than the notes when you sight read.
6. Sometimes play your pieces through from start to finish and then go back to correct the mistakes.
7. Enjoy what you practice. Have some easier pieces and fun pieces ready to play each day along with your new pieces and exercises.
8. Always listen to what you are playing. Listening is the most important part of playing.
9. The rhythm is the most important part of any piece. Make sure that you are always aware of the pulse.
10. Practice performing to friends and family. They will be impressed and it makes you more relaxed when giving concerts or taking exams.