

READ ABOUT JULIA'S 6 USEFUL TIPS FOR PARENTS

As the parent of two daughters I am well aware of the challenges of fitting regular practicing into a child's busy daily schedule. However, commitment to practice is essential in order to see your child progressing and more importantly – enjoying playing the piano. Here are my top tips:

1. Aim for a minimum of four practice days every week. Anything less than four will not see your child progress. Make a really big deal when your child practices seven days a week. (Buy them a book, reward them with an outing, whatever may work well for your child.)
2. Learn with your child – dance, sing, clap along with them when they are practicing. Ask them to teach **you** something. They **love** “being the teacher”.
3. Have a timer and ask your child to set the timer for 15 minutes (or more) so that they will stay focused during that time.
4. Have a regular time for practice. First thing, after dinner, after school. Choose a time when you are not rushing.
5. A reward system can work – stickers, jelly beans, points. Whatever it takes!
6. Listen out for and encourage those times when the magic happens. It's not all about structure and discipline. It could be when your child is exploring a pattern, making up a tune, or picking out their favourite movie theme on the piano. That's a time to smile!