

The Musical Encourager

At Valley Keyboards and The Piano Gallery, we believe that children should have the opportunity to enhance their lives with the joy of music. Not all children will be musical geniuses like Mozart, or become professional musicians when they grow up. But they all should be allowed the joy of learning to experience and love music.

Experience indicates that the success of this journey of music making requires teamwork. And the three main team players are:

1. A Willing Student
2. A Qualified Teacher
3. An Encouraging parent or family member

Your role as the musical encourager is to create the right environment in which to nurture your child's gifts. You may say "I don't know anything about playing the piano. How can we possibly help?" Fortunately, most parents of music lovers are not gifted musicians themselves. It is your encouraging attitude that will help your child.

In the beginning stages of learning to play the piano, it is your responsibility to support the student and see to it that they practice. A well tuned piano or a fully weighted digital piano, a bench at the correct height, good lighting, and a room without distractions will help your child begin to focus and prepare his/her assignments. They will grow more independent of you as the journey continues and they will begin to reap the rewards of their effort.

Some of the benefits of learning to play the piano include:

Perseverance	Confidence
Responsibility	Self-Esteem
Discipline	Teamwork
Time Management	Following Directions
Fine Motor Skills	Coordination

Many of the benefits can become transferable skills in all areas of life.

Thank you again for providing this opportunity for your child. We hope the experience will lead to a lifetime of music making. But remember, this journey of music making requires teamwork and as the musical encourager, you are a very important member of the team. Your child does not have to become the next Mozart for music instruction to have been worthwhile. The joy of making music is more than the finished product. It is also the beautiful process of getting there. And learning to play the piano is a skill that all children can take with them into adulthood. What a wonderful gift!