

How can I get my child to practice

This is often, for parents, a very serious and sometimes troubling issue in music study. They should be told that it is normal for students to not want to practice, and home practice should be supervised by the parents until the child is older and has developed more independence. There is an excellent book about this: [How to get your child to practice without resorting to violence](#). In general, the recommendations in the book include:

1. Remain calm but firm; don't nag, threaten, get angry, or give up. Brushing teeth is not optional, and neither is practicing. 10 minutes a day is fine at the beginning.
2. Create a musical environment: this will include listening to the Suzuki CD's, other CD's of classical music or other musics, going to concerts, and listening to NPR (National Public Radio) programs with classical music. Have music on all the time, or at least during meals and before bedtime.
3. Make it fun and enjoyable. Let the child be happy and loved at all times. Never make being loved contingent on whether they practice, or whether they do well.
4. Use lots of praise, even for the smallest thing, and even if it sounds awful. There is always something positive to say: "You really worked hard" "That sounded pretty good" "That was much better than last time." No negative or derogatory remarks!!

RECOMMENDED READING for Studio

[Nurtured by Love: The Classic Approach to Talent Education Ability Development from Age Zero](#) [How to get your child to practice without resorting to violence](#)

Also recommended: Fink, Lorraine: [A Parent's guide to String Instrument Study](#) Morris, Carroll: [Suzuki Parent's Diary: Or How I Survived My First 10,000 Twinkles](#) Starr, William, Constance Star: [To Learn With Love: A Companion for Suzuki Parents](#) Nathan, Amy: [Young Musician's Survival Guide](#) (for older children, middle school and up)