

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD PRACTICE

... WITHOUT REALLY TRYING

- Make sure your child knows that practicing is a family expectation.
- Set aside a set amount of time that is for practicing daily.
 - 10–15 minutes a day is better than none!
- Know what your child should practice
 - Warm ups:
 - Left hand: shifting, dexterity
 - Right hand: bow speed, weight, placement
 - Etude
 - Solo/Chamber literature
 - Orchestra Repertoire
 - Isolate difficult sections and use strategies to improve
 - “Take it to the next level” – dynamics, phrasing, articulation, bow direction
 - Review pieces that you enjoy and can play musically.

- A good private instructor can make a big difference!
- If possible, leave a practice area set up and accessible.
 - Stand
 - Pencil
 - Music
 - Good lighting
 - Instrument
 - Sometimes helping your musician by getting the instrument ready is all it takes to get them started.
- Often technology can help
 - Tuner/Metronome
 - Recordings of pieces he/she is studying
 - Video/audio recordings of self practicing/performing
 - Online helps – YouTube, violinonline.com, violaonline.com, celloonline.com
 - Electric instruments/effects processors – less forgiving than acoustic instruments.
- Make it your own by composing, arranging, and improvising.
- If your child gets frustrated or has questions, write them down and call or email your teacher – Your teacher wants you to be successful!
- Applaud your child’s successes and reward hard work.