

This information should be used in conjunction with discussing with Kathryn or Margy, your future journey that you, your child and your family have with Musikids. It may help you confidently decide which program (Young Child or Encore on Keys) to enrol your pre-schooler or first timer in Primary School into. It may also inform you of the requirements and/or responsibilities that could be bestowed on you as a parent to ensure progress in either program.

In both programs, it is always advised to observe the progress of your child throughout the year. Also observe their happiness with the program. However, it is common for a child to not 'be on top of it' during a term. Liken it to playing footy, tennis, swimming, etc all year. At sometime your child may need a break from practise. This is OK! Bear in mind that the longer the break, the harder it will be to catch up. ie. 3 weeks is too long during a term without practise. It's best to leave the break from practise for the holidays.

Persistence and perseverance with playing at home encourages great things like strength, character, skill, better memory, far greater problem solving skills, happiness ...and yes – frustration at times! Getting through the hard times results in great satisfactions on the other side! Some things you need to know about the programs:

YOUNG CHILD

Class Duration: 45min – 60min

Content : During semester 1 (terms 1 & 2), the content is creative whilst allowing the children to feel and express music through movement, instrument play and ensemble work. We introduce the basic elements of rhythm (ta's, ti-tis and rests) all the while creating 4 beat rhythms to play. We also introduce the dynamics of Forte (loud) and Piano (soft).

The children learn about the staff and where c and a above middle C are written on the staff, as well as positioned on their glockenspiel. Simple songs and echoes are learnt and developed. The children learn background information on the music of Mozart.

In semester 2 (terms 3 & 4), we explore new notes d, f and g above Middle C. The song reading and playing becomes harder. However the songs are sung to and moved to well before the reading and playing takes place. More games and expressive movements are explored as we learn about Legato (smoothly) and Staccato (short & detached), Crescendo (gradually getting louder) and Decrescendo (gradually getting softer). We are introduced the Tchaikovsky's "Peter & the Wolf", and a little bit of Beethoven.

Reporting

Yes – at the end of the year

Are there opportunities to perform?

Yes – 2 Open Days, Wodonga Children's Fair and the end of year Concert

Homework/Practise

Every week for 16 weeks, homework is given in different forms eg. copying notes, practising the glockenspiel, learning the names in a family of instruments

When is it best to practise?

The day immediately after each lesson.

On the glockenspiel: in the mornings 2 – 3 times a week

How long should we practise for?

5 minutes until it becomes a chore

Should I sit with my child while they do their homework/practise?

Yes. These kids are still small and dote on the attention you give them. Just sitting there quietly acknowledging their efforts is plenty enough. If you feel confident enough to help them, we encourage it.

ENCORE ON KEYS

Class Duration: 60min

Content: Encore on Keys is a most favourable Australian keyboard course for small fingers. At Musikids we complete Book 1 and half of Book 2 in the first year. In the second year, we complete Book 2, Book 3 and begin Book 4.

The songs are fun, and as well as receiving a music book, a backing CD to play whilst playing the keyboard and singing, the children receive flash cards to reinforce the theoretical aspects of the course.

By the end of the course, your family should be very well prepared for further individual music study.

Reporting

Yes – at the end of every term

Are there opportunities to perform?

Yes – 2 Open Days, Wodonga Children's Fair and the end of year Concert

Homework/Practise

Children are given a practise Diary that they will past in at the beginning of every lesson. Parents will be required to comment on their practise efforts for the week (5 days) as well as to honestly mark off the practise actually completed.

When is it best to practise?

The day immediately after each lesson.

In the mornings 3 to 5 times per week.

How long should we practise for?

Year 1: 5 – 15 minutes per sitting

Year 2: 10 – 25 minutes per sitting

Should I sit with my child while they do their homework/practise?

Yes - In the first year most definitely.

These kids are still small and dote on the attention you give them. Just sitting there quietly acknowledging their efforts is plenty enough. If you feel confident enough to help them, we encourage it.

