

September 28, 2023

Laura & Dina are hosting and directing the topics! We have no affiliation or benefit from any resources or products, and remember that we're here to share great resources and great ideas. Feel free to add websites or links in the chat, and we will give you a few moments at the end of the meeting to copy it for your personal use.

We are hoping that this Chat will take on a very conversational style, with lots of input and audience participation. Please add your comments to the chat. We'll be tapping into those concepts and ideas and discussing how to incorporate some of the curriculum concepts.

*"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn." (Benjamin Franklin?)*

General curriculum goals for an average 8 year old beginner likely include:

- Keyboard geography
- Note reading
- Technique
- Rhythm
- Aural Skills
- Theory & Terminology
- Musicality in playing
- Some type of "creative" elements, eg. chords, improv, etc.

Put your answer in the chat: Average 8 year old, beginner piano student -  
How long do you schedule for a private lesson?

- 30 min
- 45 min

What is on your "must accomplish" list for the first lesson?

- Fun
- Posture and hand position
- Sitting properly
- Having fun just playing keys
- Being able to play something
- Sound explorations through improvisation
- Be able to play a short song by rote
- Recognize high and low sounds
- Groups of 2 and 3 black keys
- Recognizing keyboard geography

What are some "hope to accomplish" activities for the first lesson?

- Middle C
- Learning 8 notes
- To play a piece
- Singing pitches
- Playing a little song by rote
- See inside of the piano
- Play rhythm games
- Make up your own song

- Explain what practicing is
- Leave them excited to come back
- Hoping they will be comfortable enough to hum/sing and with me as the teacher

## POLLS

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1. What is your approach to Keyboard Geography? |     |
| Black keys followed by white keys               | 66% |
| White key names without reference to black keys | 22% |
| Key name templates, letter stickers, etc.       | 0%  |
| Keyboard Characters                             | 13% |
| Theory/written activity                         | 61% |
| Games   | 65% |
| Other...  | 9%  |

How quickly does an average 8 year old secure knowledge of the key names?

- 1 – 2 weeks
- 2 weeks
- 2 – 3 weeks
- 3 - 4 weeks

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| 2. What is your initial approach to note reading?          |     |
| Directional Patterns                                       | 83% |
| Finger Numbers   | 52% |
| Visual cues (eg. colour coding, letters in the note heads) | 22% |
| Pitch only, no rhythm to start                             | 13% |
| Pitch and rhythm together                                  | 61% |
| Off Staff  | 65% |
| On Staff   | 43% |
| Theory/written activity                                    | 52% |
| Games  | 43% |
| Other...   | 0%  |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| 3. When it is time for on-staff reading, which approach do you prefer? |     |
| Middle C position or C position  | 65% |
| Intervallic  | 65% |
| Landmark   | 65% |
| Mnemonics  | 4%  |
| Other...   | 9%  |

What are some things that you do to ensure that a student doesn't become "stuck" in a position?

- I use many different methods to teach note reading largely because of the different learning styles students may have. In other words, one particular method might not work well with a particular student so it is really beneficial to have many methods at your disposal
- I like to work on a rhythmic pattern and once they have that, then we play that pattern on Middle C, Treble G and other landmark notes

4. Which technical concepts do you expect an average 8 year old to develop in the first 3 months of lessons?

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Posture (whole body playing) | 93% |
| Hand position                | 96% |
| 5-finger scales              | 81% |
| Triads                       | 33% |
| Octave scales                | 22% |
| Other...                     | 11% |

5. Which skills do you introduce in the first 3 months?

|          |     |
|----------|-----|
| Legato   | 78% |
| Staccato | 78% |
| Portato  | 19% |
| Dynamics | 81% |
| Other... | 0%  |

Links that were mentioned during the session:

<https://rhythmband.com/products/step-bells-c-c-diatonic>

<https://www.long-mcquade.com/241396/Print/Theory/Music-For-Young-Children/Magnetic-Music-Staff-Keyboard-Tin-Sheet.htm>