



Recommendations for NEW STUDENTS commencing Suzuki Instrumental Lessons

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Commencing music lessons for the first time requires thought, some preparation and a commitment from parents to support their young child at home if the experience is to be successful. Children who have this support generally progress well and remain motivated and happy to continue learning their chosen instrument. Families need to consider their circumstances before selecting an instrument. Have you shown your child the various instrumental options available or let them hear the different instrumental sounds online or at a live concert?

First things First Book a 20 min “OBSERVATION CLASS” at LCMCC.

This involves you and your child sitting in and observing another student undertake their piano lesson. It is not a trial lesson. It is an observation process with parents, students and siblings expected to sit very quietly and respectfully observe what happens during another student’s lesson. If you have questions following your observation class you are welcome to contact the office for a discussion.

The purpose of observation class is twofold:

- It provides families with an opportunity to observe the Suzuki Method, the teaching style and manner of the teacher and to discover how Piano/Violin/Cello/Flute lessons are an interactive and fun experience.
- It allows the teacher to illustrate what happens during lesson time and shows the parent how the tutor will interact with their child, how they engage a child in the learning process and set behavioural expectations during the lesson.

We acknowledge the importance of pairing new students with an instrumental teacher who has the temperament, philosophy and teaching style that will complement your child’s individual character and your family expectations. Sometimes this synergy can take a while so be prepared to take some time to allow this to happen.

NOTE... not all parents want to attend an observation class as outlined above due to time constraints etc ... this is fine if you are sure, confident and prepared to start lessons immediately. We can arrange a tutor based on what you tell us about your child and our general experience of placing children and tutors together.....but please be aware that we **do not offer trial or one off lessons.**

Actual Enrolment is for 10 lessons or from your starting date to the end of the term. Invoices will reflect the number of lessons and we recommend you read and understand our “Terms and Conditions for Enrolment’ and our make- up lesson policy before commencing lessons.

If you have any serious concerns after your initial 4 weeks of lessons, you are welcome to call Cardinia on 94278027 or Robyn on 0425231226.

Instrument requirements.

Please discuss your individual requirements for instrument size, brands etc directly with your tutor or seek advice from a professional instrument retailer.

Piano

You may need to purchase an upright piano **or** a digitally weighted piano. (NOTE this is distinct from a keyboard with unweighted (lighter) keys that produce a pre-recorded sound). It is extremely important that students take advice from their tutor and have the correct instrumental set up for the following reasons:

- a. To develop strength in their fingers
- b. To develop an awareness of tonal colour (quality of the sound of the instrument)

Where can I purchase a piano? Be aware that there are options available to 'rent before you buy' which allows parents to place the rental cost towards the purchase price should you choose to purchase the instrument after several lessons.

In the event you have an old piano, please ensure this is tuned correctly by a professional piano tuner at concert pitch 440Hz. In the event the piano cannot be tuned at concert pitch because the strings are too old and may snap, we strongly recommend that you purchase a digital piano "with piano weighted keys" so your child can develop relative pitch. **It is extremely important for students to have the correct instrument set up so they can build a strong foundation with an emphasis on good posture and motor skills.**

Others requirements (books, foot stools, piano chairs etc.)

Music books, foot stools and specialist piano chairs are available at most music retail stores or on line so do some research and ask your tutor for best options. Suzuki Piano Books with the **CD** can be purchased or ordered from the LCMCC office. Please call Cardinia 94278027 to place your order or make an enquiry.

Other suggestions

LISTENING to the Suzuki CD and other styles of music are paramount to successful music education outcomes. The child who listens regularly and practices a little EVERYDAY will progress very well, and stay engaged. An unmotivated child or parent is usually found to be not listening to their CD. Listening can be a very simple solution to ensure good progress. (Listening to your CD in the car is a great start and fun for all.) **YOU CAN NEVER LISTEN TOO MUCH!**

Parental involvement!

YES...YES.. We want parents involved and on the job supporting their child. Parental attendance of weekly lessons will be very positive for your child. Parents are encouraged to bring an HB pencil/pen and small notebook to take notes in the lesson to ensure a clear understanding of requirements for home practice and to record details of forthcoming concerts opportunities, Suzuki workshop events and tutor away date etc.

Not all teachers will write in your child's notebook so be prepared to take notes and to maintain communication with your tutor, ensure you have their email and contact details so that if necessary you can contact them for discussion and any away dates etc.

Remember you need to give 24 hours notice *directly to the tutor* before you are entitled to a make-up lesson offer. (only up to 4 times a year).

If you have any other enquiries please give Cardinia a call 94278027 or Robyn 0425231225.

All the best with this exciting beginning for your child and family.

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