

QUESTIONS ON MUSIC LEARNING

These are some of the commonly asked questions regarding the process of music learning, especially for the young ones.

CORONATION MUSIC SCHOOL 

1 WHAT IS A GOOD AGE TO START LEARNING AN INSTRUMENT?

For piano or violin, the best age to start would be around 4 years old. Once they are fluent in counting up to 4 and know their alphabets from A- G and backwards, that basic knowledge will be a good foundation to start with!

For cello or guitar, above 6 will be advisable. Of course there are exceptions to the recommended age, feel free to check with a school/teacher and have a trial lesson!

2 AT WHAT AGE IS IT APPROPRIATE TO START SINGING LESSONS FOR MY CHILD?

Above 7 will be advisable. The key to having a proper vocal training is to have lesson contents tailored for the child. Good repertoire that are able to match the vocal abilities of the child is crucial.

3 DO WE NEED TO HAVE A PIANO OR KEYBOARD AT HOME?

If you'd like to monitor their interest level before investing in getting a piano, getting a keyboard for them to practice is better than not having an instrument at home. If they persist up to a year or so and progress well, playing on a piano is a must. The depth and sound of a piano are very different from a keyboard and they will need it to build up their finger strength and postures. Always follow up with the teacher on their progress and interest before getting the instrument.

4 SHOULD WE SIT IN FOR LESSONS?

This depends on the personality of your child and your commitment level in monitoring their music learning. Some kids behave very differently and does not respond well when their parents are sitting in. Get advice from the teacher and read their body languages. If they are not progressing, sitting in for some of the lessons might help give you a better idea on their learning situations. The key is to maintain regular communication with the teacher on your child's progress.

5 WHEN IS MY CHILD READY TO SIT FOR EXAMS?

They should be familiar with their scales/arpeggios, exam pieces as well as the aural skills segment by the date of exam registration. Always follow up and align your expectations with the teacher. Understand and be clear on the purpose of taking exams and communicate that with your child and the teacher. Listen to the teacher's advice as he or she will be the only person who knows your child's progress well enough.

6 I DON'T KNOW MUSIC AT ALL. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILD IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK?

Refer to the other info-graphics that are available on our website. Monitoring your child's progress based on those questions/guidelines can help to keep your child on track. A three-way communication and commitment from the student, teacher and parent will always ensure a progressive music learning journey for your child.

7 HOW DO I KNOW WHICH INSTRUMENT IS SUITABLE FOR MY CHILD?

Talk to your child, talk to a school/teacher and arrange for a trial lesson! The best indicator of your child's interest is to observe and talk to them. The best way to find out which instrument is to have a lesson with the teacher. The chemistry between teacher and student is crucial for long term development and you want to make sure that your child enjoys both the lesson and instrument.

8 IS THEORY OR AURAL SKILLS IMPORTANT?

Yes! Music theory and aural skills gives you insight into how all the notes and rhythms are put together in any piece of music. Learning to listen is a crucial skill and ear training goes hand in hand with the physical playing of an instrument. Music is a language and building up your theoretical knowledge and aural skills along with the practical playing will benefit your child's music learning process greatly.