

Riverside and Highlands Bands

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How To Help Your Child Practice At Home

RESOURCES:

ATTITUDE / PHILOSOPHY:

- “It’s not hard, it’s just new.”
- Mistakes are okay. That’s how you learn new things. Expect to make mistakes every time you play.
- It’s not about trying hard enough, it’s about trying often enough.
- This is muscle memory, not just memorization. Muscle memory comes from lots of repetition and sleep.

THINGS YOU CAN REMIND YOUR CHILD ABOUT: **HOW TO PRACTICE**

- Start with the warm-ups or Fundamentals that we used in class that day.
- Only try to learn one new thing at a time, or only try to fix one problem at a time, or you will be overwhelmed.
- Break it down into small pieces. Work on just a few notes at a time, before you attempt to play the whole song.

THINGS YOU CAN REMIND YOUR CHILD ABOUT: **STRATEGIES WHEN LEARNING A NEW SONG**

- Listen to how the song is supposed to sound, by listening to the videos I post on YouTube for our tests.
- Do not try to do the whole song at first. Do a few notes at a time. If you make a mistake, stop and fix it.
- Before you play, say the letter names of the notes out loud. Just do a few notes at a time if it is overwhelming.
- Before you play, tizzle (drums say “dut”) the rhythms. Tap your foot with the beat while you do it.
- Sssssllllllloooooowwww dddooooooowwwwnnnnnnnn... The best way to learn a song is to play it very slowly at first, as slow as you need to. In other words, play it so slowly that it is easy for you. Speed up later.

TROUBLESHOOTING: **WRONG NOTES**

- Use the Fingering Charts for each instrument so you can see which buttons you are supposed to press for each note.
- When you play a wrong note, stop and work on just that part. Go back and forth between that note and the one that came right before it. Do it 4 times in a row correctly before moving on