



# Is your child ready to study the violin?

## Benefits of starting young

Recent studies have shown that the earlier music instruction is begun, the better. Starting violin training before the age of seven offers many benefits.

- Physical Benefits: upper body strength and flexibility, improved finger strength, better posture
- Mental Benefits: improved attention span and focus, sharpened memory, improved self-discipline

## Philosophy

The Suzuki approach seeks to develop the whole child and to help unfold his/her natural potential to learn and become a noble human being. Children learn to play through the “mother tongue” approach, learning to play by ear first and then by sight (note reading). Suzuki students develop confidence and self-esteem, determination to try difficult things, self-discipline and concentration. They acquire a lasting enjoyment of music and skill and sensitivity for music making.

## Readiness Checklist

Violin instruction is most successful when lessons are begun once you can answer “yes” to a majority of the questions below. If you find you are answering “no” or “not quite” to many of these questions, it’s suggested that you wait to start.

**Interest:** Does your child show interest in the violin? Does he like listening and moving to music? Is she excited about the prospect of violin lessons? Is your child comfortable being away from you for short periods of time?

**Communication:** Does your child respond well to questions asked by adults other than her parents? Does your child sit and listen to stories with interest? Is your child easily brought back to task when needed? Can your child speak clearly and make himself understood in most situations?

**Coordination:** Can your child wiggle fingers independently, hold a pencil or crayon, and distinguish between right and left? Is your child potty trained? Can your child follow two-part directions and focus on a single task for 5-minute intervals? Is your child ready for the responsibility of respecting and caring for a delicate instrument?

**Parental Involvement:** Have you rented or purchased a quality instrument that is sized correctly, or do you have plans to obtain one? Do you understand the cost of lessons and instrument rental or ownership? Will you commit to listening to the recording of songs with your child on a regular basis? *Listening to the songs is a very important part of the learning process.* Do you have the time to sit with your child regularly to assist with home practice time? *Most students under 8 years old need their parents to help them with practicing at home every day.* Do you have the ability to bring your child to lessons regularly? *Consistency is important to your child’s success.* Do you have patience to help your child through the slow and boring stages of beginning violin lessons? *Young children often take longer to learn the basics but to ensure strong technique, you’ll need to be committed and motivated with and for your child.*