

Dear parent/student,

Welcome to Suzuki Piano Book 2 online course! I am excited to begin this adventure with you as we journey through pieces by musical giants such as Bach, Schumann, Mozart, Bartok, and Beethoven! Please read the following information carefully. Also, make sure you watch the Introduction video before beginning Unit 1. If you are starting this program now and have not completed the Suzuki Book 1 course, please read the Suzuki Book 1 Materials and Instructions to make sure you have the appropriate instrument for practicing.

Materials you will need:

1. Suzuki Volume 2 with CD, **OR** purchase music downloads separately.

Book with CD:

<https://a.co/d/iVdh0TY>

Book without CD:

<https://a.co/d/fnJog50>

Music Downloads (choose the recordings by **artist Seizo Azuma**)

<https://www.alfred.com/suzuki-method/suzuki-audio-downloads/>

2. Succeeding at the Piano Lesson and Technique Books 1A and 1B

<https://a.co/d/bxehMCI>

<https://a.co/d/cQjsID8>

3. Sight Reading & Rhythm Every Day Books 1A and 1B

<https://a.co/d/6plnSQq>

<https://a.co/d/6htbH5b>

4. Fundamentals of Piano Theory Levels 1 and 2 (not needed until after Suzuki Book 2 is completed)

By Keith Snell and Martha Ashleigh (Publisher: Neil A. Kjos)

Theory Books:

<https://kjos.com/piano/theory/snell/fundamentals-of-piano-theory.html>

Level 1 Answer Book:

<https://kjos.com/fundamentals-of-piano-theory-level-1-answer-book.html>

Level 2 Answer Book:

<https://kjos.com/fundamentals-of-piano-theory-level-2-answer-book.html>

5. Flashcards, if you don't already own a set.

<https://a.co/d/fbFdR9E> Or <https://kjos.com/bastien-music-flashcards.html>

6. Metronome

Here's one example. I personally use (and like) this metronome:

<https://a.co/d/0AVa8SV>

7. Boosters for your piano bench (or an adjustable bench)

Options: gardening kneeling pads, thick books, piano pads from YoungMusicians.com, large carpet sample pieces. **Avoid using pillows or soft cushions for boosters.**

8. Piano Footstools

Options:

- a. Contact me for purchase (\$70 for a finished wooden set, cheapest on the market, available in the Grand Rapids, MI area)
- b. Stacked books
- c. Step stool
- d. Purchase a set online

9. Highlighter tape (optional)

<https://a.co/d/6gqTVx9>

10. Toys, toys, and more toys!

Children love to practice with toys, so the more sets of different toys you have the better! Legos, cars, puppets, stuffed animals, small plastic animals, fun erasers, balls, plastic bugs, toy people, etc.

11. Excellence in Music course for ear training (optional)

<https://musicwonderfulmusic.com>

Getting Started

1. Turn on the Suzuki CD/recording **every single day**. This can be while your children are doing homework, when you're in the car, during mealtime, or while they're falling asleep at night. All the pieces that will be learned are on this CD, so being extremely familiar with the music will make learning the pieces much easier. Listening is the cornerstone of the Suzuki method. Your child must have the music in their ear so they can imitate it.
2. Print out the Practice Chart and Notes for each lesson. This file is provided on the Resources page. The Practice Chart has spots to check off each assignment/piece that you practice each day. You should also log how many minutes you practiced and how long you listened to your music recording. There's also a spot to record the student's attitude while practicing. Involve your child in this process and ask them how they think their attitude was. Feel free to set goals and incentives to reward your child for having a good attitude all week. The "Main Point" section is purposefully left blank. Based on what you learned in the lesson, I encourage you to write what you think your Main Point of focus during practice should be.
3. This program works best with daily, consistent practice of 45-60 minutes. If you don't have this amount of time, or if you regularly skip days, the student will still benefit, but you won't see the same kind of progress that you would if you practiced 45-60 minutes every day. (That being said, we all have days when we are extra busy. On days like these, if you're not able to fit in a full practice, just do what you can. Practicing for even 1 minute is better than skipping a day!)
4. Pick one day of the week to be your Lesson Day when you watch the "Lesson" video and "Scales and Chords" video and take notes. Most of the lessons are intended to take about a week to complete. If the student hasn't mastered all the assignments in one week, that's no problem. Wait to move on to the next lesson until they have mastered everything from the previous lesson. The Suzuki method works by moving in small gradual steps. Everyone learns at their own pace. The important thing is that you don't rush and move on to the next video before the material is fully mastered. One practice chart is provided for each video lesson. If you aren't ready to move on to the next lesson, print that same practice chart again for as many weeks as it takes to **fully master the concepts**.
5. Children 4-7 will need their parent's full involvement. Watch the lesson video with them each week. If they're too young and unable to focus on the video (4 and 5-year-olds especially), just watch the lesson yourself and take notes. Then you can guide your child through the concepts in the lesson. Children 6 and older will

have an easier time focusing on the video. If they're watching the video with you, I will sometimes prompt the child to try something in the middle of the lesson. The screen will go dark, giving you time to pause the video so they can try whatever I prompted them to try. If your child does not watch the video with you, it will be your job to present these lesson ideas to them for the first time. Try to present them in the way I did in the video (e.g. if I used a toy or a certain illustration, try to do the same). Try to demonstrate a skill and let them copy you, rather than verbally explaining everything. They do not need to master all the skills right away on the Lesson Day. The Lesson Day is merely a day to introduce the concepts so you both know what the goals are for the week. It is ideal if the child achieves one successful "repetition" on Lesson Day of whatever is being taught so they know what a correct repetition looks like.

6. For the rest of the week, your goal is to work on the practice points from the lesson with your child, using the strategies given in the video. Use the provided practice sheets to check off (or let your child check off) each assignment when you practice it. Again, you will achieve best results if you practice every day and make it a point to complete most, if not all, practice assignments daily. (If you have a very busy day, practicing even for 1 minute is better than skipping altogether. Just do something.) The Practice Notes include the goal for the week, so it is easy to know what needs to be accomplished before moving on to the next lesson.
7. A child who is 8-11 will need their parent's involvement at the beginning of their musical journey, probably for 6-12 months, and then they can gradually transition to practicing on their own if they seem ready, as long as the parent still watches the lesson with them once a week. This allows the parent to check in on how they're doing. Don't rush this transition. The longer you practice with them the better. For this reason, try to make practice fun, positive, and enjoyable so that it's sustainable for as long as possible. (Watch the Positive Practice videos on the Resources page for helpful ideas.) Every student is different. Some students are ready to practice independently sooner than others.
8. Children 12 and up can begin this course independently. They will still benefit from parental involvement, but it's not absolutely crucial. The parent can be more of a "private consultant" for when they need an extra pair of eyes and ears. Students 12+ should use the Practice Charts and Notes and watch the videos on the Resources page for extra tips.
9. In Suzuki Book 2 we will go through two Prepared Reading books: Succeeding At The Piano Lesson and Technique books 1A and 1B.

- i. What is prepared reading? Prepared Reading is reading music and practicing and "preparing" it until you can play it fluidly, confidently, with attention to all details written in the score. Prepared Reading is different from Sight Reading. Sight Reading is reading a piece of music for the first time.
- ii. I do not teach you the reading pieces in the lesson videos. I have indicated which reading pieces you should be on in the Practice Charts.
- iii. I created a separate "reading video" of myself playing each of the pieces to help you. Do **NOT** use this video to learn the notes. That would defeat the point of learning how to **read** music, since you would be learning from the video instead of reading the notes. Use the video to double-check your work and make sure you didn't miss anything.
- iv. Make sure you can play the pieces well with attention to all details before you move on to the next video lesson.
- v. If you have mastered all the assignments pertaining to the Suzuki pieces, but are behind on Prepared Reading, take an extra week or two to catch up. It is important not to fall behind on Music Reading.

10. In Suzuki Book 2, we will work through a couple Sight Reading books. Sight Reading is reading a piece of music for the first time. Similar to Prepared Reading, this material is not covered in the lesson videos. Instead, the Practice Charts indicate which unit you should be on. Aim to stay on track. The books are very easy and self-explanatory. There is also a video on the Resources page of how to use the Sight Reading books.