

What to Expect

Learning to Play UKULELE at WOW!

An easy start guide for new students



Welcome to WOW! Music Studios! This simple guide will help get you set up quickly & easily, and also help you make the most out of your learning experience.

Get the WOW Student Portal App This goldmine of resources helps students get the most out of your WOW music education experience! The teacher directory, the calendar of studio holidays and events, and tons of tips on maximizing learning. Set it up as an app on your phone! Directions are on the site, just scan the QR code>> 	
Essential Gear Click any link for online buying suggestions ☐ Ukulele, tuner, stand, case & capo ☐ Music Stand ☐ Student Materials Notebook or Journal ☐ Two cups & 20 strips of paper or popsicle sticks (see below for explanation) ☐ Access to music or YouTube to play along with	Home Set up - Ukulele is easily accessible - Someplace that encourages playing for fun as well as practice - Where does the student spend the most time for leisure/fun? - Make space for a computer - Need easy access to emailed lesson notes & homework assignments - Easy access to Zoom (best on a computer vs phone, tablet or Chromebook)
Communication - Text your teacher in your first lesson to share contact info for last minute issues (see Student Portal) - Give regular feedback, good or bad - Teachers want your feedback to adjust their teaching to fit the student and help them succeed - Ask questions to understand what's being covered, and what is the plan	
The (Mostly) Pain-free & Nag-free Practice Plan With music, the real “learning” occurs at home in the 6 days between lessons. Teachers make sure students know WHAT the assignment is, and rely on parents to make sure kids DO the assignments. So here is an easy plan to help support your child at home: 1. Have your instrument in-house before the first lesson (builds excitement) 2. Treat practicing more like a game instead of a task 3. Discuss & get agreement with your child on the following plan before lessons start: a. Play for fun anytime you want, but every night you'll do the Popsicle Stick Game (see below) just before/after ____ [<i>something they do every night like dinner, teeth brushing, etc</i>] b. Track their “Streaks”, see if they can break their own records, set new ones i. Number of consecutive days, X out of Y days, etc ii. Post the score visibly, over the practice area 4. The Popsicle Stick Game a. Place two cups (Cup A & B) on/near the practice area. b. Write the names of songs learned on individual popsicle sticks and place them in Cup A c. Each day, pick 2-4 sticks, play those songs/projects, then place in Cup B d. When Cup A is empty, reverse and start pulling from Cup B instead. 5. Frequency is key! a. 5 days of 5 mins each per week is WAY better than 1 day of 25 mins a week	
5 Pro Tips for Success in Music Education 1. Express interest in what they are learning. <i>If it's important to you, it's important to them.</i> 2. Remind them often of songs/projects that were hard at first but easy now. <i>Develop a lifelong habit of knowing perseverance and incremental work pays off.</i> 3. Develop their own sense of pride & accomplishment. <i>Saying “You must be so proud of yourself” instead of “I’m so proud of you” reminds them they’re doing it for themselves, not just for you.</i> 4. Share their music, preferably live. <i>Text short videos, or Facetime distant relatives to hear them play a song.</i> 5. Remind them there’s only “more experienced” and “less experienced” <i>Unlike so much of life, there’s no finish line or score to win with music; it’s all subjective, so there’s no “good” or “bad,” a good way to have balanced lives.</i>	
Final thought: <i>“I wish my parents had encouraged me to stay with music when I was a kid”</i> <i>- Millions of Adults Everywhere</i> Science is showing that music education has major life-long benefits, and every person is naturally musical, without exception! Like any long-term endeavor, there will be peaks and valleys in motivation along the way. The key is supporting your child through these ups and downs to achieve success!	