

LESSON STRUCTURE

Below is a sample structure for a 40-minute music lesson:

1. Introduction - establish a connection with your student (2-3 Minutes)

Figure out where they are coming from and how they are doing - it is key to get to know your student and build a relationship with him or her. It may be as simple as asking how their day went, or you may as involved with the family as having dinner with them after a lesson. This may change the direction of your lesson. For example, if they have had a really bad day, you may just want to play for fun that day.

2. Warm-up! (2-3 minutes)

This is important and will vary by instrument. We don't want to create bad habits for our students by not properly warming up—it as important as stretching is for dancers.

3. Review (15 minutes)

Review something you have learned previously (as in the previous week) and have fun with this. Familiarity allows your student to feel comfortable, which in turn equates to a sense of self-confidence (when they can play something they are good at) and having fun.

4. Something new (10 minutes)

The learning portion of your lesson! (This will take up the longest portion of your lesson). Build on concepts (perhaps that your went over in your "Review"). New information is important and helps the student feel like they are moving forward.

5. Push the envelope (5 minutes)

Really stretch their horizons for a minute or two to teach them something a little beyond their level. This allows your student to see something they will eventually build up to.

6. Application or something fun (5 minutes)

Enforce what you learned in the "Something new" section by practicing. This is usually in the form of playing a song or part of a song that incorporates the new concepts your student has learned. In this section of your lesson, you are bringing your student back to their comfort zone.

LESSON PLAN SAMPLE

Date: 8-12-16

- **Check-in: how are you doing? (3 min.)**
- **Warm-up: scales (3 min.)**
 - Practice good hand position and fingering
 - Review: A, E - New from last week: B major, New this week: F major
 - Music Tutor Free - play game once to practice note names
- **Review (15 min.)**
 - Jazz duet - Baby Left Me Blue
 - New jazz song - Night Swing
- **Something fun/new (15 min.)**
 - Warm-up singing
 - Play through "Lost Boy" chords/singing for me - C Em G D
 - Tie in theory concept - *chord inversions*
 - What is a chord? 3 notes. You can play a chord in different order using same 3 notes.
 - What 3 notes are in C major? Play me C major in different ways. Repeat for Em, G, and D.
 - Practice just the singing, and then just the playing
- **For next week:**
 - Play "Music Tutor Free" app game 3 times - write down your scores
 - Practice scales - B major and F major
 - Practice two jazz songs
 - Baby Left Me Blue - practice dynamics and accents
 - Night Swing - learn notes, practice trouble spots, play it smoothly
 - Practice playing/singing "Lost Boy"