

CLEVER PRACTICE!

**‘Practice isn’t the thing you do when you’re good.
It’s the thing you do that makes you good.’**



If you want to make progress on your instrument, these tips are for you!

Try to practise.....

REGULARLY

10 – 15 minutes every day is much better than just one longer practice the night before your lesson. Try to practise at the same time every day.

IN A QUIET PLACE

Make sure you practise somewhere where you won’t be disturbed or distracted. Trying to play whilst the TV is on or the radio is blaring is not a good idea! Ask your family to give you time and space to practise alone each day. If they want to hear you play and you have a piece you’d like to play to them, you could do that at the end of your practice time.

THOUGHTFULLY

Check in your notebook to see what your teacher has asked you to practise. Remember that this is your work for the whole week and you don’t need to practise everything every day. You might find it helps to make a plan for the week.



If you need to do exercises or scales, it’s a good idea to warm up with these.

When you’re practising a piece, don’t be tempted just to play it over and over again; you won’t learn it properly that way! This is what to do:

- Play the piece through once
- Then go back and have a look at anything you found tricky
- When you’ve looked carefully at the notes, play the difficult bit on its own a few times until it starts to get easier
- If it doesn’t get easier, move on to a different piece which you know well and enjoy playing
- Then go back to the first piece and try the tricky section again
- If you’re still having problems, don’t worry; ask an adult to help you or make a note of what you are finding difficult and tell your teacher at your next lesson.
- The important thing is that you have a go!

CALMLY

If you are struggling with a piece and getting cross, take a deep breath, walk away and do something different, just for five minutes.

Getting cross stops you thinking straight!

When you go back to your instrument, start again with a piece of music that you can play well and then follow the steps above.

