

[Why piano lessons are good for children. \(from suite101.com\)](#)

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The piano is an ideal first instrument for children who want to learn to read music and play a musical instrument. It's good for kids in other areas of their lives, too.

Learning to play the piano is a hallmark of many peoples' childhoods. **The benefits of piano lessons for children go beyond music education:** learning to play the piano and the study of music in general engages both hemispheres of the brain. The benefits of this learned skill carry on through adulthood.

Music education involves both art and math. Playing the piano improves fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination in children. There are the more abstract, less tangible results of music lessons as well -- playing the piano well adds beauty to the world.

The piano is an ideal first instrument for children to learn. The keyboard is easier to master, initially, than some other musical instruments. For example, wind instruments like the flute involve learning the proper method of blowing across the head joint's mouth hole, while string instruments like the violin entail learning to play the right note, no other strings, and with the correct amount of bow speed and pressure. For these and several other reasons, the piano is typically recommended for children who are interested in learning to play a musical instrument.

Benefits of piano lessons for children:

- **Increased hand-eye coordination.** Piano lessons help children with their fine motor skills, coordination, and general dexterity. The importance of good hand-eye coordination in kids is clear; kindergarteners learning to write and older children perfecting their writing skills need to be able to have mastered this small motor skill.
- **Improved concentration.** Learning to play the piano takes focus, as children need to think about each hand operating separately. Learning to read sheet music also takes concentration and focus and translating the written notes into music with the correct tempo and rhythm does, as well.
- **Improved school performance.** In 2000, Francis Rauscher published research indicating that classroom keyboard lessons cause long-term enhancement of the spatial-temporal reasoning abilities of children (*Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 15, 215-228). In plain English, this means that learning to play the piano helped kids understand concepts behind science, math and even engineering.
- **Music appreciation.** Perhaps it seems obvious. Understanding the process of playing music and thinking about individual notes that make up a whole musical composition engages children in a deeper understanding of the complexity of music. This carries through to a lifetime of music appreciation across musical genres.
- **Being well-rounded.** Most children who learn to play the piano don't grow up to be concert pianists. However, having multiple interests and one or two hobbies add to the well-roundedness of developing personalities.
- **Confidence.** The self-esteem boost that comes from mastering any musical instrument is considerable. With the exception of percussion instruments, the piano is one of the easier beginner instruments for young children. It still feels good to rise to the challenge. Plus, learning that practice improves performance is a lesson that children can extrapolate to many aspects of their lives.

Children who learn to play the piano don't easily forget. Piano lessons are gifts parents can give to help their children do better in school, feel good about themselves and add a bit of music to the world.