

## GROUP LESSONS OR PRIVATE LESSONS

Q: What is the difference between private and group lesson?

A. Individual lessons are usually thirty minutes in length, with the piano teacher working one-on one with a student. Individual lessons provide a high degree of personal attention for a student.

Group lessons are generally 45-minutes in length, and consist of between two and five students working with the piano teacher. During group lessons, each student plays their own keyboard while receiving instruction. Students are introduced to new skills in the group every week and practice these skills using earphones. The teacher rotates among the students to check on their progress and provides additional instruction as needed.

B. One of the major differences between private and group lessons is the cost. Private lessons are much more expensive than group lessons.  
Private lessons \$80.00-\$100.00 per month  
Group lessons \_\_\_\_\_ per month

Q: Do children learn faster with private lessons?

A. Private Lessons offer a learning pace that offers personal attention over group lessons. This usually means an accelerated learning pace over group classes. Students usually play more difficult songs than the group students. **At the recital, at the end of the year, group students usually play together while private students play individually.**

Q. What will determine my child's success with piano lessons in group or private lesson?

A. Many variables cause some students to improve more than others:

- Goals of parent(s)
- Parent involvement
- Musical skill of child
- Cognitive level of student
- Student interest level
- Amount of practice time

These variables usually indicate how well a piano student will master their individual level of learning to play the piano. No, you cannot compare one student to another because of their cognitive level, but you can compare the other variables... Most students excel because of the amount of time they practice along with the high expectation and involvement of their parents.

Many times children want to take piano lessons because they think that it will be a fun thing to do. After a few weeks of taking piano lessons, they realize they have to practice and it may take them away from things they enjoy doing. Some students will have to be told to practice or may act as if they do not want to practice. This is no surprise! If children had a choice, they probably would not do their schoolwork either. If playing the piano is something that you see your child continuing, you must push them through this stage. I understand from my experiences that when my mother pushed me through and made me practice. I learned some valuable lessons. I did not realize it as a child, but the benefits were valuable later. The lessons I learned were not just the benefit of being able to play the piano, but I also learned...

- Important character developments, such as persistence, to finish a task even when it seemed hard
- How to focus and pay attention
- How to take constructive criticism
- How to feel good about myself from my achievements.

Q. My child has not had any previous lessons. Should I enroll my child in group or private lessons?

A. You might want to choose group lessons first to see if your child is serious about taking lessons. After a semester of group lessons, the teacher will evaluate your child's progress and decide whether your child would benefit greater from private lessons. The selection of private lessons, of course, is your decision. You may feel that private lessons would be best for your child.

Q. My child has had previous lessons. Should I enroll my child in group or private lessons?

A. Evaluate your child's piano interest with previous music lessons. If your child has developed a sincere desire for learning to play the piano and is willing to practice, then your child would benefit greatly from private lessons. Sometimes the sincere desire for playing the piano may have been diminished by a negative experience with the previous teacher. You will have to evaluate the emotions of your child, if this is the case. No matter what you choose, the teacher will evaluate what seems best for the child and communicate their observations with you.

Q. My child is in pre-school. Should I enroll my child in group or private lessons?

A. All pre-school piano lessons are group lessons. Private lessons begin at second grade.