

The Role of Parents

IN SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS IN VOICE LESSONS

As parents, your support plays a crucial role in nurturing your child's success in voice lessons. Here are some guidelines to create a conducive environment for their growth:

Create a safe and supportive environment

- 1. Create a Supportive Environment:** Establish a safe space at home where your child can practice or attend virtual lessons without feeling self-conscious about their progress. Reassure them that mistakes are part of the learning process and refrain from critiquing their volume or dissecting their practice sessions.
- 2. Schedule and Consideration:** Collaborate with your child to determine optimal practice and lesson times that minimize disruption to household activities. Ensure all family members are aware of these times to maintain a quiet environment.
- 3. Constructive Feedback:** When offering feedback, focus on positivity and constructive suggestions. Avoid unsolicited criticism and instead frame feedback in a supportive manner that encourages improvement without discouraging effort.
- 4. Encouragement and Recognition:** Celebrate your child's achievements and progress. Communicate positively with their teacher about their development and share their successes with others to bolster their confidence and motivation.
- 5. Patience and Long-Term Goals:** Understand that vocal improvement takes time, akin to physical fitness. Avoid pressuring for quick transformations and instead support consistent effort over months to achieve significant progress.
- 6. Optimal Practice Conditions:** Help identify and designate a quiet, private area in the home where your child can practice without distractions, ensuring an ideal environment for focused learning.



Accountability in Practice and Materials:

- **Consistent Practice:** Emphasize the importance of regular practice sessions, discuss with the vocal coach what it best for your child to maximize the benefits of their lessons.
- **Journaling and Preparation:** Provide tools such as a dedicated journal or digital device for lesson notes and reflections, aiding in their learning and progress tracking.
- **Preparation for Lessons:** Ensure your child brings required materials, such as sheet music, to lessons to optimize the coaching time and progress.
- **Organization:** Encourage your child to maintain an organized system for their music materials, whether in a binder or digitally, to facilitate efficient practice and lesson preparation.
- **Performance Opportunities:** Support your child's participation in auditions, recitals, and other performance opportunities to enhance their experience and confidence.
- **Voice Health Awareness:** Advise your child on practices that protect their vocal health, such as avoiding activities that strain the voice and staying vigilant about symptoms of illness to prevent setbacks in their training.

Working with a Trusted Voice Coach:

- **Selecting a Coach:** Choose a voice coach with proven experience in teaching and performing, supported by positive reviews from other students. Ideally someone who has experience in both teaching AND performing.
- **Open Communication:** Maintain open lines of communication with the coach to address any concerns or questions about your child's progress and learning journey.
- **Trust in the Coach:** Trust that the coach will choose appropriate music and exercises tailored to your child's developmental stage, prioritizing their growth over external expectations.

By adhering to these guidelines, you can significantly contribute to your child's success in voice lessons, fostering their passion for music and supporting their journey towards vocal proficiency and confidence.