

What You Should Expect From Private Lessons

1. Private instrumental lessons are a valuable tool in the musical development of your son or daughter. However, as a parent you are making an investment that you should see results from. The following are a few examples of what you should see and hear as a result of good private lessons.
 - You may not hear or see much improvement or interest in the first week or two at the beginning of private lessons. Your son or daughter is beginning an adjustment to their music practice habits.
 - By the third week you should see the following:
 - A definite practice time. Length may vary from several 10/15 minute sessions to 30+ minutes at one setting.
 - A practice outline and lesson assignment sheet from the private instructor.
 - Normally lessons include:
 - Exercises to improve tone production, technical skill (finger dexterity, embouchure development, instrumental range etc.)
 - Etudes that improve a specific area of performance (legato/staccato playing, sticking or mallet technique for percussionists)
 - Solo selections that improve musicianship and apply technical lessons.
 - Some fun material (duets etc)
 - You should also begin to hear a slight difference in the quality of the instrumental tone. In other words, a clarinet should start to sound like a clarinet etc.
 - By the end of the fourth week definite practice habits should be in place.
 - A definite improvement in technical and tone qualities should be heard.
 - Your son or daughter should be enthusiastic about going to lessons and be consistently prepared.
2. If you do not see and hear improved instrumental results you should re-evaluate the lessons from the following:
 - Student is not practicing regularly
 - Student is not using practice time effectively
 - Student is not interested in spending the time/effort