

Darja Koehler, B.A., Piano Performance

3651 Mosswood Drive

Lafayette, CA 94549

925/876 0266

suzukiprof@gmail.com

www.suzukipianolessons.com

PIANO STUDIO POLICY

I am privileged to be your child's teacher and very excited to help her or him to develop her/his highest musical potential. While some children may learn more quickly than others, it is important to keep in mind that we are concerned more with the process than solely with the progress. Adults must be careful about the expectations they have for their young child. You may not see progress instantly nor consistently, yet you must still praise the child's efforts and continue to provide a nurturing environment. The Suzuki triangle, Teacher - Parent - Child, is very important. Together, we can offer a child a beautiful experience towards her/his discovery of music.

PRACTICE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Daily focused practice with parental support is essential for a child's success. Your child has potential for tremendous musical ability, but that ability will only grow well if you nourish it with enough practice.

CD TIME

Your child is learning the language of music, and her/his ears need to be saturated with this new musical language in order to develop increased ability and motivation. Listening to the Suzuki CD is required on a daily basis, and parents are responsible for playing the CD for their children. The recommended listening time for Book 1 is two hours daily. The CD can be played as background music while your child is engaged in other activities.

AT THE LESSON

When you and your child arrive for the lessons, please knock on the door and I will let you in . Parents and children are invited to observe the lesson in progress while waiting their turn. All waiting students or siblings are expected to stay in the piano room and sit or play quietly (please no running around or jumping on the sofas, and please clean up the toys after your child). No food, drinks, or gum are allowed in the piano room.

TUITION

Invoice will be sent to you by e-mail around the 20Th of the month for the next month.

There are 4 or 5 lessons per month, which are to be paid by the 1St of the month. The number of the lessons will be different in the months of major holidays and/or school breaks, and tuition will be prorated. Otherwise, a regular number of lessons will be charged for every month.

Lessons' cost:

30 minute lesson - \$65

45 minute lesson - \$98

1 hour lesson - \$130

After the 1St of the month a \$25 late payment fee will be charged. Any additional cost of the music material that I purchase specifically for your child will be added to your monthly invoice as necessary.

LENGTH OF THE LESSONS

Most likely your child will start with half hour lessons. At a certain point, lessons will need to extend in order to accommodate the ever growing repertoire and theory games. Please consider that when you are signing your child up for the lessons.

MISSED LESSONS

Your child's time is reserved exclusively for her/him. As with any tuition - based private school, a student who does not attend a lesson will simply miss the benefit of that lesson. No deductions or refunds are made for missed lessons and no make up lessons are offered. However, families may trade their lesson

time with another student to help avoid absences. Phone numbers and emails will be provided. Please let me know if you need to cancel the lesson as soon as possible.

I will reschedule or give you a credit, if I cancel a lesson for any reason.

TARDINESS

Please come to the lessons on time or even a few minutes earlier to observe the lesson in progress. In case you are late, I will not be making up for the missed time.

SUMMER AND HOLYDAYS

It is understandable that most students take family vacations during summer. There will be no charge for any missed lessons due to family travel during the months of June, July and August, except if a student fails to show up when expected or fails to give sufficient notice (24 hours in advance). However, when not away on vacation, students are expected to continue with the lessons. Experience has shown me that both skill and motivation deteriorate markedly unless students try to keep up with their lessons and practice throughout the summer.

For the 2024-25 school year there will be no lessons offered on Sept.2 - Labor Day, Thanksgiving - Nov.28-Nov.1 (Thursday - Sunday), Christmas Break Dec.23- Jan. 5, 2025, Spring Break - March 31--April 6, and Memorial Day - May 26. Lessons falling on these days may be rescheduled for another time of that week. Two weeks of Christmas and a week of Spring/Easter break will be available for the lessons, if the studio is open. I will let you know. Last day of the 2024-25 school year is May 31.

RECITAL

Participation in recitals is highly recommended and a lot of fun. Recital fee is \$35 per student per recital.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Electronic devices: I would like to request that all my students, when in my studio, do not use any electronic devices at any time . They can read, do homework, or play quietly while listening to the lesson in progress. Previous experiences have shown me that after they spend time playing on their devices, they have difficulty focusing during their lesson and do not get as much out of it as they could. I would like this to be a music appreciation time.

REFERRAL FEE

For any referred student that signs up for piano lessons, you will receive \$65 credit towards your next month's tuition.

COMMITMENT

All students who have been taking piano lessons with me for three or more months are expected to commit to a full school year (beginning of August - end of May). You may withdraw due to loss of job, move out of the area, serious illness or death in the family.

COMMUNICATION

I would love to discuss any questions that you might have at any time. Please feel free to call me or send me an e-mail.