

# Getting the Most from the Guitar Lessons

– a guide for parents (and children)

What happens at home is just as important as what happens in the lessons.  
If nothing happens at home, progress will be very limited. Regular practice is essential.

There is nothing magical about practice. It's simply a case of going over the same sequence of movements of the fingers **repeatedly**. You have to work carefully and methodically, really thinking about what you are doing. You need to practise each phrase separately and then join the phrases together. In the early stages of learning, a phrase usually consists of just two bars of music.

What you should hear if a child is practising well, is **slow repetition of a sequence of sounds**, which should gradually become clearer and smoother, and maybe **slightly** quicker. Speed is not as important as fluency and accuracy.

## Effective Practice- pupil reminders

Take your guitar out of its bag as soon as you get home from your lesson.  
Are your fingernails short enough - on both hands?  
Are you sitting properly? Use a footstool (or equivalent), like we do in the lessons.  
Check that your guitar is in tune, **every time you play it**. A clip-on tuner is a big help.  
Know the name of each note you play, and which fingers you are using.  
Listen! Does what you're playing sound any good?

## What Should Be Practised?

Everything we have been working on together in recent lessons.

## When and Where?

Establish a routine. Choose a suitable place in a suitable room. Set up your music so that you can easily see it. Practise as often as you can, but at least 10 minutes a day. If you miss a day, practise for longer the following day. Don't be half-hearted: make a real effort to improve. Be proud to call yourself a musician.

## Performance

Exams, concerts and simply playing to entertain family and friends are excellent motivators. Please encourage your child to put their skills to good use - and to enjoy playing with and for other people.

**Regular attendance at the monthly guitar club in Cleethorpes is highly recommended.\***

## Logistics

Some pupils struggle to remember to bring their guitars and music to school, and to take them home again on the day of the lesson. Perhaps you could make sure they get everything ready the night before the day of the lesson - and that both guitar and paperwork come home with them after school.

...and finally, please check to see whether there is any  
correspondence from me lurking in their bags!

Thank you. A little support from you will make a world of difference.

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*\*see separate sheet for details*

