## Your Not-So-Musical Piano Parents Need This Piano Practice Cheat Sheet

September 9, 2014: By Andrea Dow

A year and a half ago we wrote a post with a formula that relates to the success of your piano studio. The formula went a little something like this:

## Practice + Progress = Happy Kids = Happy Parents = Successful Studio

While not particularly mathematical, or algorithmically correct, this formula is absolutely true AND absolutely dependent on one single factor... practice!

Without home practice the entire formula falls apart.

## **But There Was One Thing Missing**

Now, when I wrote that post back in January of 2013, the formula perfectly illustrated my point... but for today's post I need to take the formula further. So take a look at the new and updated formula:

Involved parents = Successful Practice Successful Practice + Progress = Happy Kids Happy Kids = Happy Parents Happy Parents = Successful Studio

The key addition of course being "involved parents". Much of your piano studio's success hinges on this one single factor. Which is why, when we work with piano teachers, one of the first things we advise is to strive to help parents be <u>active participants</u> in the piano lesson process... even if they have absolutely no musical background.

## What To Do With Non-Musical Parents

Most of your piano students will come from not-so-musical parents. Their ability to help with piano technique or instruction is limited to such phrases as "Julie, it's time to practice piano!" or, "Julie, did you remember to practice piano?", or "Oh my gosh Julie, your lesson is in 10 minutes, quick, practice!"

But it doesn't have to be this way. By simply sitting with their children for the first 5 minutes of a practice session and using our Piano Parent Cheat Sheet (The question cards found below), not-so-musical piano parents can have a huge impact on their children's musical success.

Laminate the following question cards and send them home with your not-so-musical piano parents (note... we've also included a blank set of cards so you can customize your own set of questions). Ask them if they would mind sitting with their children for the first five minutes of daily piano practice and having a little chat... using the question cards as a jumping off point for the discussion.

And then, wait for your students to return the following week. If their parents have indeed taken a few minutes of their day to get involved with piano practice, I'll bet you'll see some serious progress... which, in the long term, means serious success for you!



