

KinderBach™

Simply Discover Piano



Only three things to remember about teaching young children -
review, review, review!

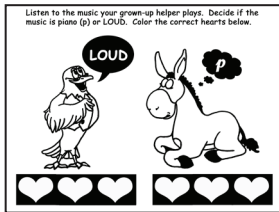
Parent Guide

by
Karri Gregor

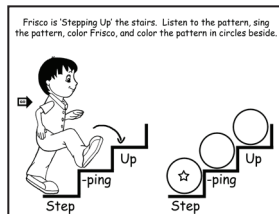
Parent Guide

KinderBach at home is a way for YOU to introduce piano or keyboard to YOUR child. KinderBach provides all the educational media necessary and this guide will explain how to use it. You do not need a formal music education and so this parent guide will give you a head's up on music theory. In addition, we explain what instruments and other supplies are needed for KinderBach lessons.

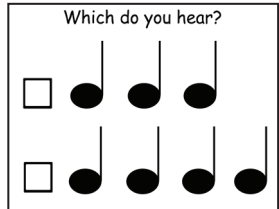
Six areas of music development



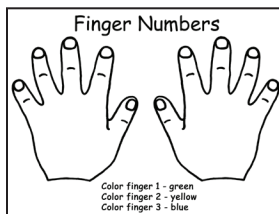
1. Ear or Listening skills – Beginning with the range of sound from high to low and loud to quiet, recognition and duplication of melodies and rhythm, essentially for playing by ear.



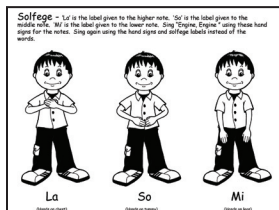
2. Sight or Note reading – Recognizing the letter names of the individual keys on the piano, reading notes on staff, patterns and direction of music and understanding simplified chord symbols.



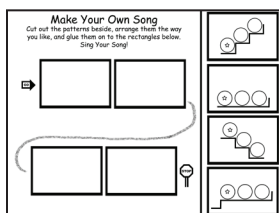
3. Rhythm – Understanding the beat value and rhythm of notes and their placement within different time signatures.



4. Hand position or technique (playing the piano) – Understand the piano finger numbering system, differentiate between left and right hands, strengthen fine motor skills. Proper hand position at the piano is introduced and modeled in much the same way as penmanship in school.



5. Singing – Vocalizing music adds to the pleasure of music education. Singing is an essential building block for playing by ear.



6. Composition - Guidance in using the tools and skills learned to create music. The composition area of the KinderBach curriculum teaches the student not to simply copy or recite music but to create it, making music a true outlet for artistic expression.

Instruments and Supplies needed for KinderBach lessons

1. Keyboard or Piano: It is not necessary to purchase an expensive piano or keyboard for your preschool child to play. If he/she continues with piano lessons after KinderBach, you will need a proper piano but, in the beginning, don't buy something you fear will be damaged by your preschooler. All he/she needs is something that has the black and white keys, preferably the regular size of keys,



not miniature keys. An electric keyboard is fine, something you can set in front of the television, computer or tablet. If you already have a piano, you don't need to go out and buy a keyboard. Just use your tablet or phone at the piano.

2. Rhythm instruments:

If you have rhythm sticks, drums, cymbals, etc. ... great! If you don't have them, plastic bowls, and kitchen pots and pans work fine. Encourage your child to find musical instruments in unusual objects. It enhances their creativity.



3. Activity supplies: Crayons, glue, safety scissors, cardstock, paper for your printer and some laminating materials (if you want to laminate).

What to Do - (Ten Tips for Success)

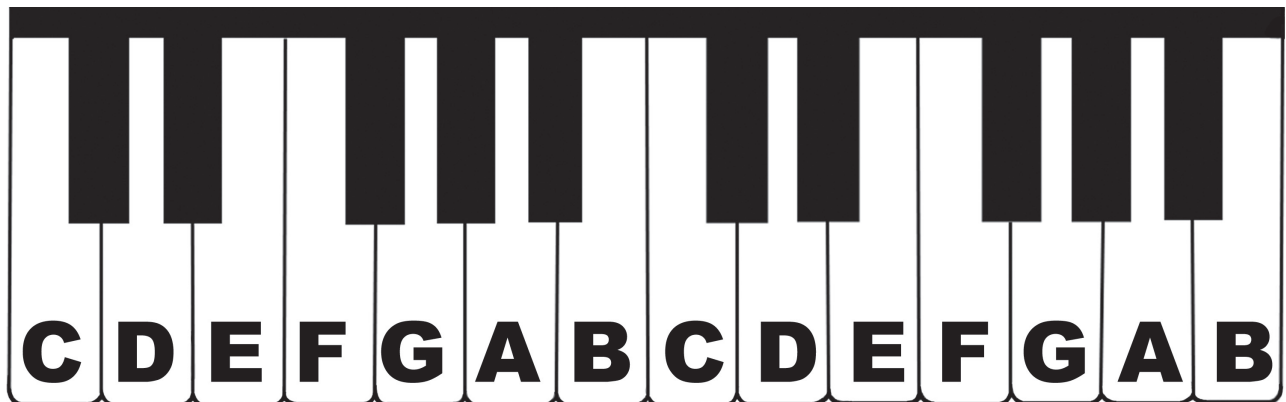
1. Print the Lesson
2. Gather materials – lesson pages, crayons, glue, and safety scissors.
3. Set up the keyboard or piano near the TV/computer or use the app on a tablet or phone at the piano. Repeat the exercises without the video to ensure the young child understands.
4. The video may not have long enough pauses during activities. It is the nature of the media. Your child can not be expected to process and respond on cue. You will have to facilitate by monitoring your child's progress. Pause or stop the video to give your child time to finish an activity or answer a question him/herself.
5. You know your child. Cover only what he/she is capable of understanding and accomplishing at one time. Be sensitive to when your child has had enough for one day. He/she can always come back tomorrow fresh. How much time children spend is relative to their age. Try to keep music time a happy time by not forcing it.
6. Let your child watch the same lesson several times throughout the week for practice. Encourage participation but don't be surprised if your child just wants to observe the first couple of times. Some children absorb better this way and are more confident because they know what is expected of them. Practicing includes games, cutting, pasting and coloring as well as playing the piano, giving the child a variety of review methods.
7. Try to have a lesson or practice time with siblings or other friends. This will prevent music time from becoming the isolating, negative experience many adults remember. Music should be an experience shared, a great way to encourage teamwork and connection between players.
8. Make time for music. Ideally, a lesson or concept should be reviewed a minimum of 5 times during a week. This won't be hard for children to do. You know how they will review something they like. Work it into their routine. Even if it is just 5 or 10 minutes, they will retain more information longer because of it.
9. Your child will feel more accomplishment when he/she can play tunes you recognize. KinderBach songbooks – Everyday, Christmas, Hymns and Patriotic songbooks - are designed to satisfy the eager child with easy familiar songs they can play right away with few or no lessons.
10. Play songs with your child or sing while they play. Actively participate and they will learn faster and firmer.



Heads up on Music Theory

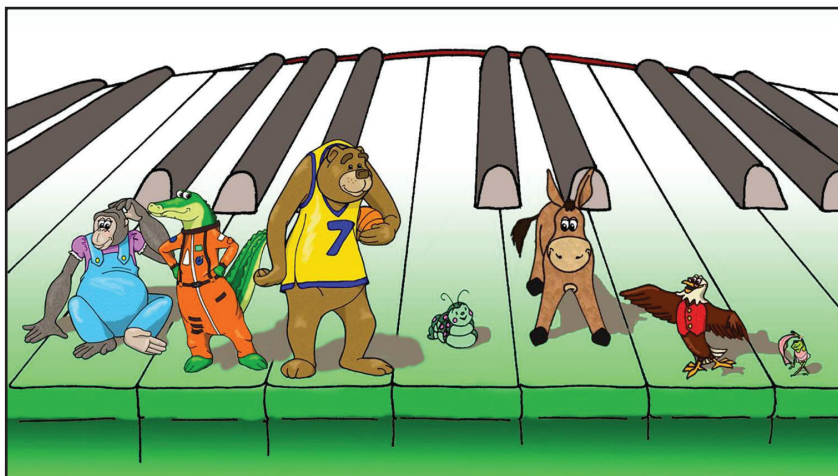
You don't have to know anything about music to do KinderBach lessons with your child. However, it may be helpful to understand a bit more about music so you can appreciate the purpose of each exercise. With this in mind, here are a few explanations that may help you keep a step or two ahead your child.

1. Keyboard Geography - The piano has both white and black keys. The black keys are grouped in 2s and 3s that alternate across the keyboard. Understanding and navigating this landscape is the first skill in playing the piano.

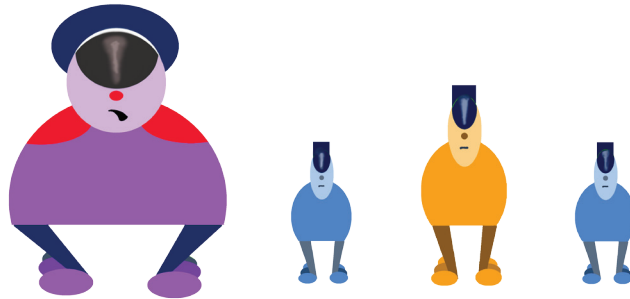


2. Notes - The piano is a C instrument which means that the C major scale is the easiest scale to play on it. The C major scale can be played on all white keys. This is the reason most beginner programs start by trying to find C. The easiest note for a young child to find is D, between the two black keys because the child does not have to add the task of figuring out if the 'C' key is on the left or right side of the two black keys. Therefore KinderBach finds the D key first and uses it as a landmark for other notes. Names of the notes are seen above on the keyboard.

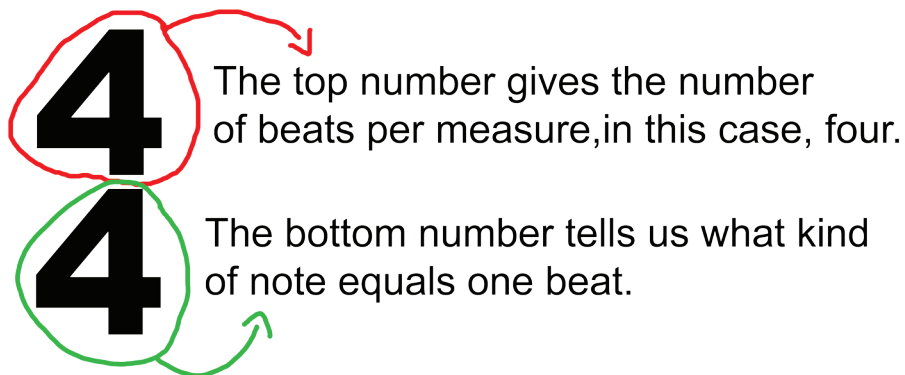
KinderBach Piano Pals live on the keyboard and their names are alliterated to the letter names of their keys. This way a child does not need to know his alphabet forward and backwards to be able to play the piano. He/she remembers the names of the notes because he recognizes the clues given by the keyboard landscape and remembers the story about the character. The piano pals simplify the task of finding notes for the young child.



3. Beat – Beat is the steady pulse of the music. It is a rather intangible concept to convey to a young child and easily dismissed as not important by them. To the young child relationship or personalities give importance. Therefore, we have given the beats personality in the form of the Beat Bugs. They are introduced in common time or 4/4 time as “Strong, weak, medium, and weak” which lays the foundation for much more complicated music theory in the future.

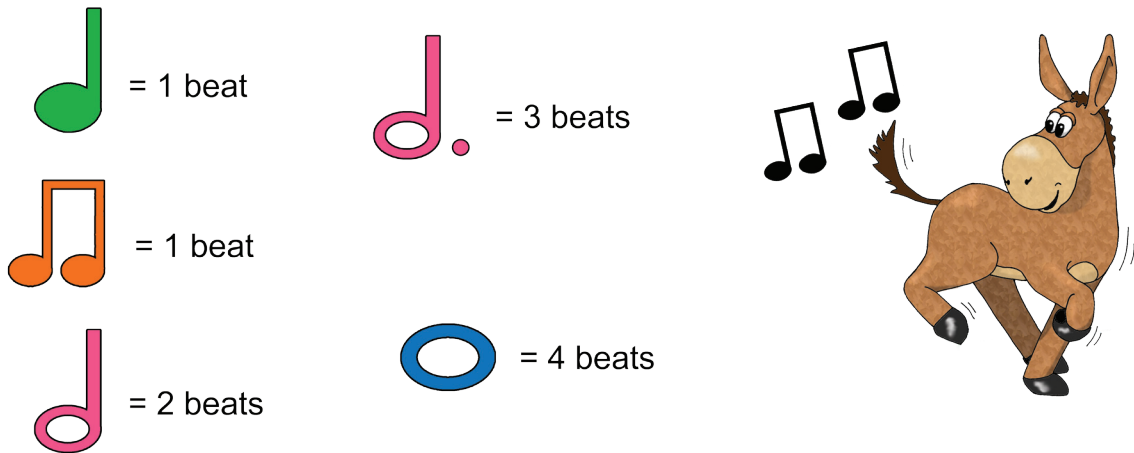


4. Time Signature - A time signature tells us how many beats per measure and what kind of note equals one beat.



- a. For example 4/4 time signature: The top number gives the number of beats per measure, in this case, four. The bottom number tells us what kind of note equals one beat. In this case the bottom number, 4, means a “Quarter note” equals one beat. 4/4 is what we call ‘common’ time, the most common time signature.
- b. KinderBach students will experience $\frac{3}{4}$ (Waltz time signature) or 3 quarter note beats per measure and $\frac{2}{4}$ (March time signature) or 2 quarter note beats per measure.
- c. There are other time signatures that can be deciphered in the same manner. $\frac{5}{4}$ = 5 quarter note beats per measure. $\frac{6}{8}$ = 6 eighth note beats per measure. $\frac{2}{2}$ = 2 half note beats per measure. We may touch on them by way of time signature explanation but the majority of music will be in a time signature where a quarter note equals one beat.

5. Rhythm – Rhythm in music is the timing of the melody or the way the words go. Since we have characters on the keyboard, what the character does determines the rhythm in KinderBach. Quarter notes are called ‘walk’ notes and each gets one beat in common time. Eighth notes are called “running” notes and get one beat for two notes in common time. Half notes are called “standing” notes and get two beats per note in common time.



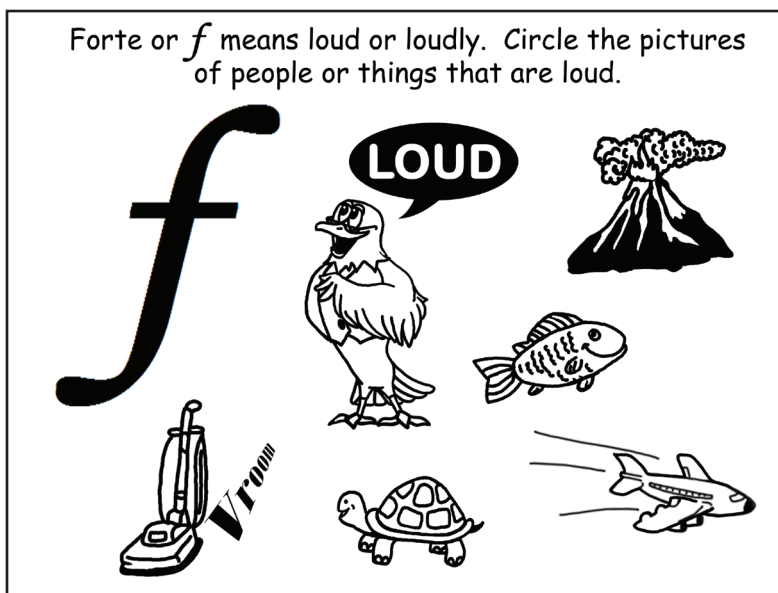
6. Reading music – KinderBach uses a method of pre-staff reading in the beginning that will easily transform into staff reading later.

- a. The characters are portrayed on stairs with each step being a separate character. If a stair is empty, that note is not played.
- b. Students become familiar with the distance between the notes and are further aided by the introduction of music patterns. Music tonal patterns are taught and recognized by sight and sound at first. Students learn to play them and assign characters to them. It is a logical method of pre-staff reading that will make students confident grand staff note-readers.

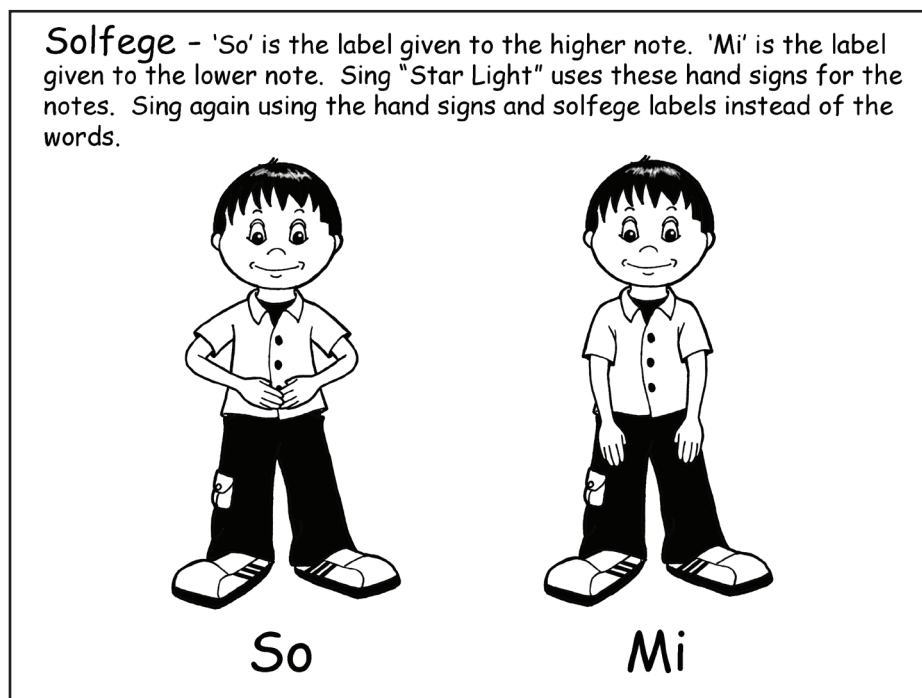
Frisco is 'Stepping Up So High' on the stairs. Listen to the pattern, sing the pattern, color Frisco, and color the pattern in circles beside.

The diagram shows a staircase with a character named Frisco climbing it. The steps are labeled with musical patterns: 'Step', '-ping', 'Up', 'So', 'High', 'High', 'So', 'High', 'Up', '-ping', 'Step'. There are two 'STOP' signs at the top of the stairs. Below the staircase, there are two 'GO' arrows pointing to circles containing a star and a circle, and another 'GO' arrow pointing to a circle containing a star. The circles are intended for coloring and matching the patterns on the stairs.

7. Vocabulary – The characters and the letter names they represent are strongly emphasized and used interchangeably. The same is true for rhythm. When the ‘walk’ note is introduced, the grown up word ‘quarter’ note is also used. Other musical and Italian terms are explained so that the students will have a proper working music vocabulary.



8. Singing – Singing is very important as it provides an opportunity to physically feel the distance between notes. Young children can imitate and decipher the human voice easier than any other instrument. KinderBach also uses Kodaly Solfege terms (do, re, mi) to decode songs. Combined with gross motor movements, the student gains a thorough understanding of the music before he/she even plays it. The development of these listening skills will help the young pianist to play by ear and to transpose songs into different key signatures.



9. Composition – It is important for any young student to understand that music is a creative art form. KinderBach gives students the tools, assignments, and encouragement to explore song creation and their own artistic sense.



Final words of encouragement:

Make it regular. Make it fun.





Simply Discover Piano

