

From: "Susan Arrington" <musiksu@yahoo.com>
To: <gartenloop@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: Re: [gartenloop] Dissuading parents from private lessons?
Date: Thursday, 19 May, 2005 11:32

I feel sorry for the three year old child that is bored. I imagine him being a child that gets anything he wants, and the Grandmother being a total control freak, going from here to there to occupy a child that is out of control. Every day I dissuade parents from private lessons for two to four old children. A few years ago I had several four old piano students. I thought it would be fun, and easy money. I tried private, overlapping, you name it. After three months, the kids wanted to quit, partly because the parents were pressuring the children after the lesson to play their songs-or whatever they learned. Also, some parents were eagerly watching the lesson, and constantly asking when they would be reading music- or being way too late for pick up--the kids wanted to run around the room--they wanted to go home-you name it!! Then lots of calls came in for private lessons for four olds. Yikes--I had to discourage parents, and tell them it didn't work out for that age. Now, after MG training, and understanding how kids learn music, I don't teach private lessons until they are five--or 6 years old. Every week I have people call about piano for two or three or four olds, and I schedule an interview to tell them about MG and how it is a family centered program. They come and meet me, and seem unhappy that I won't give in and work privately with their child. After I audit MMH, and then take MMW in Baltimore this summer I hope to gain more insight about advantages of waiting until they are really ready for piano

---Susan Arrington
nancykubo <nancykubo@comcast.net> wrote:
a little encouragement:

I was at the MTNA National Conference a couple of weekends ago. There was a whole track of group teaching presentations. I think group teaching is going to come around to being "normalized" and in demand, and we won't have to constantly educate parents about the value of the group.

nancy

----- Original Message -----

From: dmmetler
To: gartenloop@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2005 9:31 AM
Subject: [gartenloop] Dissuading parents from private lessons?

I was talking to a grandmother of a 3 yr old who is in the class after my daughter's today-she is planning to put her son in private piano lessons starting in the fall-she feels he's "bored" in the group music class. He's not my student, since I won't be teaching group classes until this fall, but I can easily see this situation coming up.

Now, from what I've seen, this is an active, playful 3 yr old boy. I doubt seriously that he stays still for 30 minutes straight anywhere if he's not asleep-she even said that he was asked to leave a mother's day out program because he was too disruptive to the other children during the group activities. I can't see him being at all happy or interested in a traditional piano lesson at this point.

I can see where it's possible that he's getting bored in the 1.5-3 yr old group-he is at the top of the age range, and it's nearing the end of the semester, but I think that this child would be MUCH better suited to a Cycles class than to a private lesson at this stage. I think it is likely to be frustrating for him and for whomever is trying to get him to practice. I can easily envision his grandmother pulling him out of lessons claiming that he's "bored" within a few weeks. I've had few students in my teaching below about age 7 who were ready for private instruction-which is one reason why I like MMK so much.