

Practice Games for Children from *Loving Practice, Developing Discipline*

Game	Description
1. "Fun Counters"	Put three to ten fun things the child can earn on one side of a flat surface. Each time the child successfully attempts a desired task, move one of the things over.
2. "Dice for Repetition"	Let the child roll a dice to determine how many correct repetitions of a particular task they should perform.
3. "Who Can Play the Slowest?"	If the parent can also play the piano, the child and parent will take turns, seeing who can play a piece or passage the slowest.
4. "Weirdo Practice"	See how many different ways the child can play something (slow, fast, loud, soft, happily, angrily, etc.).
5. "Timers and Stopwatches"	Use timers and stopwatches to see how fast the student can complete correct repetitions of the desired task.
6. "You Teach Me"	Have the child give a miniature lesson on their instrument to the parent.
7. "Draw from a Hat"	Put titles of pieces or phrases into a hat and have the student draw them randomly. This game is particularly helpful with solidifying memory.
8. "Freeze and Think"	The parent says "Freeze!" or another cue, and the child has to stop playing their piece and think about what is coming next in the music.

9. "Tell a Story or Draw a Picture"	Ask the child to make a story or draw a picture that represents different aspects of the music (contour, emotion, rhythm, etc.).
10. "Sing the Notes While Moving to the Melody"	Have the child move their hands with the melodic contour or dance along in order to help them internalize the music and play more expressively.