

Helpful Hints for Mom and Dad

1. **Patience:** Remind your child to practice every day. Improvement will happen! Read this article (<http://www.bandrox.com/forms/PracticalPracticing.pdf>) with your child to for structural guidance.
2. **Encouragement:** Learning a new technique or concept can take a long time for your child to master. A pat on the back and positive words go a long way.
3. **Motivation:** Take your child to live music events to see how the pros do it - Gammage Auditorium, Chandler Center for the Arts, The Phoenix Symphony, outdoor festivals, concerts and A.S.U. recitals featuring your child's instrument (free!). Use Spotify, iTunes and other resources to listen to master performers of your child's instrument.
4. **Common Sense:** Balance their schedules. "Band kids" sometimes spread themselves too thin.
5. **Atmosphere:** A regular practice schedule, a quiet room free from distractions, proper equipment and a reward system work well to create a positive atmosphere for musical growth.
6. **Influence:** Never underestimate your influence. Be persistent and firm. Sustaining interest can become an issue. Find ways to keep your child motivated when the material is challenging.
7. **Support:** Attend your child's concerts, don't just drop off and pick up. Show that you value music by not using its removal as a negative consequence for poor behavior or low grades in academic subjects. Examine activity schedules far in advance so your child can avoid the awkward and difficult decision of having to choose between a graded band concert and a non-graded activity.