

When is My Child Ready to Start Private Lessons?

Many factors determine whether or not your child is ready to start private instruction. Some instruments such as trumpet or tuba require a certain level of physical maturity in order for a student to even begin to produce a sound. Others, such as piano, flute, or violin, are approachable as early as age 3 with the Suzuki method. Things to consider are the child's personality, whether or not they are starting to read, physical coordination level, and the attention span. In general, students should be able to stay focused for at least 30 minutes for traditional lessons. If at all in doubt, it is far better to wait until a child is older to start individual lessons. Children who start too young or with an instrument not appropriate for the age risk becoming frustrated and may lose interest in music lessons altogether. BMS offers many options for Early Childhood group learning experiences that will lay the foundation for a successful transition to private lessons.

While every child is different, the following guidelines will give you an idea of the general age recommended to start private lessons for each instrument. For an overview of the differences in Suzuki and Traditional methods, see the Article "What is the difference between Suzuki and Traditional instruction?"

Instrument	Recommended age
Piano	Youngest for Suzuki: 3 yrs Youngest for Traditional: 6 yrs
Strings	Most students ready: 7 yrs Any student: 8+ yrs
Flute	
Drum set/Percussion	Youngest recommended: 6 yrs Most students: 7 yrs Any student: 8+ yrs
Guitar	8-9+ yrs (physical maturity required)
Woodwinds (clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone)	9-10+ yrs (physical maturity required)
Brass (trumpet, trombone, horn)	