



## 3 Things to Ask Your Child's Prospective Music Teacher

Parents are often eager to give their kids an experience that they never had. They hope to provide wonderful and enriching opportunities for them. This is excellent and a sure sign of great parents. However, a lack of guidance and knowledge can be detrimental to your child's music career. One teacher who insists on classical music only, one teacher who spends all of their time preparing you for competition after competition, or one teacher with goals and dreams opposite your child's ambitions can ruin the experience and prematurely end your student's musical progress.

Initially, teachers can be found with a google search, by word of mouth, or community events. Online reviews can be helpful in narrowing down your selection. For parents who don't know what to expect from a music teacher, here are some things to discuss and take into consideration when looking for the right fit.



## What is the cost of participating in your classes?

This is important for a couple of reasons. First, you have to make sure you can afford their services for an extended time. Music isn't learned well in just a few weeks. You are making a long-term commitment and need to treat it as such.

Secondly, you should know the price of several teachers in your area and have a good average. Quality teachers are going to charge average to expensive prices. They cannot afford to charge more unless they are excellent and sought out by consumers. If you find a teacher that you love but can't afford, consider a small group class where your student will still get quality instruction just with other musicians instead of one on one.

At Melody Makers, we offer affordable private lessons and even more affordable group lessons. Lessons can be conducted in person or through zoom.

## What are your goals for my child?

Before you ask this question, you should already have a good idea of what your goals are for your child and what they would like to do with music. Some teachers have specific types of music they want to teach. Others are always preparing for the next festival competitions. Some prefer to lean heavily to religious music. Some teachers incorporate ear training and improvisation in their regular lessons and some deter students from exploring such concepts. Choose the one that is the best fit for your child's goals. It will be okay to evolve and change over time as their knowledge of music grows.

The great thing about Melody Makers is that we set goals according to your student's interests and hopes. We support learning music for pleasure as well as learning to play for excellence. We encourage ear training and composition, especially if a student shows a strong interest.

## What methods do you use?

There are numerous methods and curriculums for teaching music. Some require certification, others do not. Get this information from your prospective teacher and then do some research to determine if it is a good fit. Some curriculum involves a whole-body experience, others are very rote and repetitive. Again, there are excellent music teachers in each category. You know what your child will most likely respond best to.

Melody Makers is knowledgeable in several methods and prides ourselves in individualized learning. Not every method is effective for every student. We are also proficient in adapting music lessons for neurodiverse students.

Now that you feel equipped in finding the right music teacher for your student, **consider scheduling lessons with us!** And if we don't seem like a good match, check out other resources we have to offer that can benefit your child's musical journey.