

HOT TIPS

to help Your child succeed in
learning an instrument

- ✓ Help your child set up a special place at home to play the instrument.
- ✓ Establish a time each day to play. Some children are at their best in the morning, before school. Some parents set a time after the evening bath when the child is relaxed, but not tired.
- ✓ Consider using the phrase "playing time" rather than "practice time."
- ✓ If possible, be a positive part of your child's playing time. Sit with your child while he plays and ask, "Show me what you're learning." Or, consider learning to play the instrument with your child.
- ✓ Encourage your child for each step forward.
- ✓ Never make negative remarks about how your child's playing sounds. It takes time and effort to produce musical sounds.
- ✓ Encourage other family members to applaud the child's efforts. Positive attention is a great motivator.
- ✓ Remember that there are always peaks and valleys in the learning process. You and your child should expect times of discouragement, accept them, and focus on the positive fact that she's learning to make music. Remind her that everything worth doing takes time and effort.
- ✓ Provide positive role models. Bring your child to hear amateur or professional musicians perform at child appropriate concerts around Newcastle or in Sydney.