

WUNDERKEYS PARENT INFO GUIDE

An Introduction to Primer-Level
Piano Lessons



- An encouraging first music lesson experience is critical to your child's long-term enjoyment of the piano. WunderKeys Primer Piano method books have been designed to be that and more!
- WunderKeys Primer lessons are tailored to **meet the needs of beginning piano students ages 5+ (or graduates of WunderKeys Preschool)** ensuring that their first experiences with the piano are both **positive and enjoyable**.



WHY WUNDERKEYS?

- The WunderKeys method books are designed to be used in a 30 or 45 minute lesson setting.
- Students begin in *Primer Piano Book One* and work through *Primer Book Two* and *Primer Book Three*.
- On average, **it takes a child a "school year" to fully complete the program.**
- Graduates of *WunderKeys Primer Book Three* move into *WunderKeys Level 1*.

THE PROGRAM

- WunderKeys Primer method books are designed to provide young beginners with a **solid grounding in beginning piano skills** including keyboard awareness, note reading, and rhythmic understanding.
- WunderKeys method books follow a scaffolded, step-by-step approach where students build off prior knowledge in every lesson.
- WunderKeys method books are story-based making them engaging and memorable for young learners.

BENEFITS

- The WunderKeys method books make it easy to assist your child at home **even if you have no prior musical experience yourself**.
- The books guide you and your child through several fun activities each week designed to reinforce what was learned in the lesson and to create "bonding on the bench" time at home.
- You can help your child to be successful by providing a home instrument and by adding regular time at the piano into your family's routines.

YOUR ROLE

- During a WunderKeys lesson your child will participate in musical activities both on and off the piano bench created to **build confidence, increase enjoyment, and solidify musical concepts**.
- Your child will build an understanding of the keyboard, read on-staff notation, develop aural awareness, and learn rhythmic notation.
- Hilarious dialogue, loveable characters, gorgeous illustrations, engaging music, and hands-on learning set our books apart.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?



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An Introduction to Piano Lessons
For Primer-Level Students



PHILOSOPHY

- We believe that a child's first piano lesson experience is an opportunity to **develop a life-long love of music.**
- WunderKeys Method Books set the stage for an enjoyable, memorable, and successful beginning to piano lessons.
- Our method books are carefully designed to be as loveable as a favorite bedtime story while giving your child the skills he or she needs to **find success at the piano.**

THE BOOKS

- The three WunderKeys Primer method books are full-color, story-based books filled with **loveable characters and imaginative adventures.**
- Each lesson follows a routine which includes comic-based instruction pages, a Practice On The Pathway mini-measure and score study page, solo pieces and duets, on and off-bench theory and ear training activities, and a "cut-and-play" piano game.
- Read on for detailed info on the concepts covered in the *WunderKeys Primer Piano* books.

- Gain an understanding of the keyboard
- Read rhythmic notation and develop aural awareness
- Explore correct piano posture and hand shape
- Learn the musical alphabet
- Identify notes on treble and bass staves
- Play solos and duets that are accessible to small hands
- Explore dynamics and time signatures



BOOK 1

- Continue an exploration of the keyboard
- Build hand strength and coordination
- Identify notes on the staff using guide notes
- Explore skipping and stepping notes
- Use finger-number clues to identify starting positions
- read rhythmic notation and strengthen aural awareness
- Begin to acquire confidence playing "out of position"



BOOK 2

- Improve efficiency in cross-staff note reading
- Build hand strength and coordination
- Complete activities designed to improve bilateral abilities
- Read hands-together notes on the grand staff
- Explore hands-together stepping/skipping patterns
- Read rhythmic notation and strengthen aural awareness
- Continue acquiring confidence playing "out of position"



BOOK 3

A PARENT'S ROLE IN HOME PIANO TIME



How to practice the piano with WunderKeys Primer Books

- Read the comic pages to your child.
- Follow the instructions provided to complete the "off-the-bench" activities and the "on-the-page" activities.
- Review these pages daily with your child to **solidify the new concepts** being taught.



COMIC PAGES

- Read the instructions to your child and complete each task.
- Have your child clap the rhythms of the practice pieces and name the notes (*after Book 1, Lesson 3*)
- Complete the guided score-study activities.
- Assist your child in playing the three, short practice pieces provided.



PATHWAY PAGE

- Have your child clap and count the rhythms.
- Have your child point to and **name the notes**.
- Help your child to find his or her starting position. *This information is provided at the top of each page as a "keyboard picture" or as "Finger Number Clues" (Books 2 and 3).*
- **Move & Groove** pages are also included in Books 2 and 3 to assist with moving "out of position".



MUSIC PAGE

- WunderKeys Primer books contain frequent "cut and play" games with instructions provided on the back of each game board.
- You will need dice and some coins or buttons to play the games at home with your child.
- Children love repetition. **Play the games often** to allow your child to experience repeated success.



PIANO GAME

- Revisit completed lesson modules frequently.
- Have your child practice the short musical excerpts on previously-completed Pathway Pages as **"warm up" activities**.
- Have your child play previously-completed pieces from the music pages while paying close attention to posture and hand position, rhythm, dynamics etc.



REVIEW