

JUSTIN LAUKAT - SAMPLE LESSON

Positive Aspects:

- Talked about chair placement and showed how it helps create good posture.
- Activities were simple and easy to understand, allowing for quick improvements to be made and clear expectations for things to be worked on.
- Concise in explanation, allowing the student to have more playing time and follow up feedback to occur.
- Duet playing gave student the opportunity to collaborate musically with the teacher.
- Was patient and calm with the student, allowing them to be more relaxed and focused
- Was able to adjust to student not having music and find effective ways to work on their technique and musicality
- Isolating 2 note passages helped a lot because it narrowed her focus more
- Had her isolate mistakes, helping her to instill a habit of fixing the mistake rather than start over from where she began
- Had her slow down when she played a passage incorrectly. Also, asked her what mistake she made, then offered my feedback to her.
- In a previous lesson I learned that she regularly competes in ballet so I was able to help her understand how tension can be harmful in both music and ballet.
- Helped her improve her form by hovering my hand over hers to keep her from lifting her “floating fingers”. Also helped lift her “collapsed wrist” and explained how good form will help her move more efficiently in the future.
- Incorporated block practice methods by having her isolate and repeat mistakes as well as random practice methods by moving on to different exercises that require her to shift her thinking and be more spontaneous (the duet especially helped with this since she had to mentally adjust to playing with someone else).
- Clapped to help her know where the beat was and stay in time.

Aspects for Improvement:

- Professional development to stay updated with teaching methods, enhancing ability to more effectively tailor to needs of the student
- Ask more questions to student to identify what their goals are and to check their understanding of concepts being taught.
- Have backup materials ready in case student forgets music again
- Practice teaching more so I’m comfortable explaining things without having to think about “how” I say things.
- Don’t be too serious all the time. Kids have a short attention span. Using different voice colors should help with this.
- Try to find the right balance. When we worked on dynamics, her rhythm got worse so maybe focus on rhythm more before diving into the musicality part.
- Lower the piano stand to the right level so she is able to keep good form
- Sing along while the student is playing will help keep them on track and make proper adjustments faster.
- Think about how I can change commonly used phrases like “I want you to” to phrases like “lets try this”. This will allow student to explore options and find what works best.