

**PRACTICE BUDDY Available from
The MUSIC SHOPPE at RENOWEB.net**

How Students Can Use Practice Buddies

1. Let your Practice Buddy sit beside you to keep you company as you practice. Talk to your Buddy about your practice strategies and goals. Explain or demonstrate how you are planning to accomplish a certain goal for the day. Ask your Buddy to listen and help you evaluate whether you have achieved this goal.
2. Let your Practice Buddies find the twins or triplets on piano keyboards. (They are soft and won't hurt or scratch the keys.)

3. Practice Buddies like to exercise. Use your Buddy to do a bean-bag-toss game on a large floor keyboard. Toss the Buddy and name the note he lands on. On a large floor staff, toss and name the note. Or name the one you want to aim for, then toss.



Variation: Place flash cards at random on the floor. Gently toss your Buddy so that it lands on one of the flash cards. Then answer the question on that flash card. Use your Note Name Flash Cards, Rhythm Cards for clapping rhythms, Intervals, or any other flash cards you might be using to work on music fundamentals.

4. Zipper Pull – let your Practice Buddy accompany you on your music bag or jacket to school, music lesson, marching band, choir rehearsal, etc. Use the loop on your Buddy's head to hang your Buddy on your music stand while you practice.
5. Play a practice recital performance for your Buddy. Practice announcing, bowing, or anything else your teacher has presented as recital procedure. If you have a recording device, record the performance so you can listen and evaluate how it really sounded, not only how you think it came out.

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How Teachers Can Use Practice Buddies

6. Awards: Teachers can use Buddies as incentive awards. Set up a challenge, such as practice per week time, or memorizing note names, or daily sight reading, or participating in a local MTNA festival or competition, and present Practice Buddies as awards. Let students choose their favorite buddy.

Variation: have a different animal represent a different level of achievement (as in gold, silver and bronze.) Different types of Buddies allow students to build a collection over time.

7. Use your Buddies to practice tracking in sight reading music – have the student follow the music placing the Practice Buddy on each note as you say start, step up, step down, etc. or as you play the music, pausing for appropriate number of beats for half notes, whole notes, etc.

VARIATION: follow the notes of a rhythm card by placing Practice Buddy on each note in rhythm as you clap the beat.



8. Use Buddies to help students keep track of repetitions in practice. They might work on a specific troublesome passage or simply play the song multiple times to learn to feel the polish and security that comes from repetition. Student moves Buddy over one square after each repetition. Determine the number of repetitions ahead of time, or ask students to see how many times it takes to become truly facile at the passage. (BONUS: road to success tracker included.)
9. Dalcroze. Pass the Beat Game – students stand in a circle and pass their Practice Buddy to the beat of the music by placing the buddy directly in the hand of the next person in the circle.
10. ABC Circle. Pass the Buddy as each member in a circle names the piano alphabet going forward, backwards or in skips.

VARIATION: Hot Potato: students pass and say alphabet as music plays; when music stops, that student that holds the Buddy becomes the next music player.