



# Attitude and Behavior Policy

As per my policy, “Tantrums, explicit or rude language, and violence are all prohibited. I am permitted to end a lesson early if any of these issues prevents the learning process. If behavior struggles become an issue, a warning for dismissal is given.”  
A Teacher cannot effectively teach and guide a Student who does not have a teachable attitude or use polite behavior.

- 1.) If a Student ever says ‘easy,’ they must give me 2 reasons WHY they’re confident. I enforce the ‘why.’
- 2.) If a Student ever uses/says any “Instead of...” behaviors, we will stop the lesson in order to discuss it.
- 3.) If a Student uses/says any “Instead of...” behaviors MORE THAN ONCE during 1 or more lessons...
  - The lesson will stop in order to discuss again with the Student what behaviors or attitudes aren't acceptable.
  - The Parents/Adult Student will be notified by text or email that the Student is working toward new mindsets..
  - The Student must write down and memorize assigned “teachable attitudes” at their next lesson.
  - The Student must recite their assigned “teachable attitude” at every lesson for as long as required.

## Instead of...

Why can't I.. | I can't, I won't, I don't.. | It's too hard.. | It's not perfect yet.. | They're better.. | I'll never..

- *You're frustrated, I get it.* Emotions come up because we care. Take a breath, and try again with a goal in mind!
- *Sneaky THOUGHTS can morph into unhealthy mindsets.* GROWTH mindsets are kind, realistic, and achievable!

## Instead of...

It's easy, too simple.. | I don't need practice.. | I'm better than.. | I could, I should, I would have... |

- *It's good to be confident in who YOU are!* BUT... Healthy confidence doesn't act out in self-importance or comparison.
- *Confidence can be deceptive if it's rooted in self-importance.* This ‘root’ prohibits growth and fosters frustration in lessons!
- *An honest Teacher won't give their Student something that they can't learn anything from.* Nobody knows it all! Your Teacher is giving you your assignments and music for a reason. Trust their judgement, and that they are routing for your excellence!

## Maintain a ‘teachable attitude’ by...

- *Using these phrases rooted in a growth mindset.*
- Do your best, working toward your *assigned goal each day.*
- *There is always something to learn.* Nobody knows it all.
- *I don't know* is *NOT* a sufficient answer. *Always TRY.*
- Slow and correct *is always better than* Fast and incorrect!
- *You don't have it YET,* but you will *IF* you're *consistent!*
- Challenges help us grow. *Take one day at a time.*
- “Complaining doesn't change this. *I won't complain, I'll TRY.*”
- *“I didn't get it done/get it right.* I won't make excuses.”
- “I am confident... This is simple...” always has a *WHY.*
- *“Mistakes tell me* what I need to work on more.”
- “I strive for excellence and growth *one goal at a time.*”
- *“I practice to grow,* not to please others or my Teacher.
- *“I compare myself to myself.* No one else. Period.”

-*Knowing your Teacher won't grade your music until the assigned goals are achieved DURING THE LESSON.*

- You may be still working on your music because you need...
- ...more time to *achieve your assigned goals.*
  - ...to ask for *help if you didn't know* your goal initially.
  - ...to focus on *the assigned goals,* not just notes.
  - ...to realize that *pianists achieve goals, not perfection.*
  - ...to learn to *practice patience,* not just music.
  - ...to learn to *share your gift* or *enjoy the music more.*
  - ...to achieve the *assigned practice chart goal first.*
  - ...to trust your *Teacher's judgement* that they will give you your assigned music *for a purpose.*
  - ...to practice and learn your music *without complaint.*

**We don't practice...** To compete, to please others, to be perfect, to incessantly challenge, or because we aren't good...

**We practice to grow and create music!** Be a better YOU each day by maintaining a teachable attitude in practice and lessons!

**We perform to share and express our music!** We Perform to share and express our music with excellence, not perfection.

We Practice to achieve goals, and Perform to share the gifts we have to offer!