



## VIRTUAL VIDEO VICTORY!

*Virtual, online, distance learning, and video classes*, might not be the education we planned for your kids, but there is still a lot we can do to ensure their success. You, like almost all parents are facing this reality today, but it is not one you designed.

It may not have been our choice to have your kids learning from home. But it is a choice we must live with, and there are things you can do to help your child succeed with this new way of learning.

To make the transition easier and maximize the best possible outcome/ enjoyment for your child, you need to adapt an incredibly positive and “cheerleading” like quality to the process. Understand that anything done online is going to require caregiver assistance and interaction for your child. Here are some tips to consider as you develop your plan.

### **Schedule your days**

Whether you are working from home or having another caregiver do these videos while you work, trying to manage both work and your child’s education can be challenging. Cut down on possible issues by scheduling your child’s days to include a consistent “music class time”, along with other daily/weekly tasks. This could be once a week or every day, but it is important that it the same time and same place.

### **Manage your expectations**

Remember that your child is learning in a different environment than they are used to, without the benefit of being able to interact with the other students and me. So, if they struggle to pay attention, grasp new concepts, or remember things they have previously learned, that is to be expected and will require more patience through the process.

It is also good to remember that they are *learning*. You already know how to do what they are learning, so it is easy to think that they should catch on more quickly. But it may not be easy for them so try to keep that in mind and be patient as they try to understand, both the content and the delivery method.

### **Arrange your space**

Kids are used to the music classroom, circle, instruments, pianos, the floor keyboard, etc. They have everything they need when we are in the physical space.

While you most likely cannot replicate the music room, you can still arrange their space in a way that works for them. Even if they do not have an official, permanent



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“music room”, it would be great to arrange their things for class near where they will be watching the class video. If you can get various instruments and have a maximum amount of space for them – that will be helpful, too.

**Limit distractions**

One of the advantages of a classroom setting is that the distractions are limited. There are not any phones ringing, appliances running, pets begging, siblings, or other distractions.

Please take the extra step of limiting distractions. Of course, there are some things you cannot control, but you can confine pets to another part of the house, separate the kids, turn off other devices and put remotes out of reach.

This step is particularly important for kids who already have issues with focusing, as it does not take much to distract them. When you notice that something is creating a distraction for your child, do what you can to eliminate it. It might mean moving the child to another area or finding another way to keep your child focused.

**Adult (and Family) Participation with the Actual Music Class Video**

Adult/Caregiver participation begins with opening the Parent Packet document included in the email sent with every video for every class level. You will want to print out the document and prepare the craft materials. Reference the Parent Guide and pick out some of the Listening Lab suggestions if they are included. Look at the other suggestions and decide if after watching the music class video you can take advantage of those.

Although there are different ages involved with the Music Class Videos – ALL the students need active participation by a caregiver while watching. These videos are not Disney movies or online games – they are interactive and require the participation of a caregiver who is *encouraging participation/activity*. The Videos are not something that you turn on and then leave the room. In fact, it is the more the merrier with these! You can move in stuffed animals, other caregivers, and siblings to enjoy the video, along with your child who is enrolled.

**Offer motivation**

To a point, watching the music class videos does require a certain amount of intrinsic motivation. Your child is going to need to want to do it and that comes by your encouragement and maybe a “little” external motivation.

You can offer motivation in the form of simple praise for a job well done. Or you can offer a bit more, if necessary.



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**Keep rewards small and manageable. Think about things like:**

- Being able to choose dinner that evening
- Picking a movie for the family to watch
- Staying up late
- A new small toy, coloring book, or book to read

Let them know what the reward is in advance, so they know what they are working toward.

**Incorporate some no-screen time every day**

For many parents, this can present a real struggle if they are not used to limiting screen time. Because the Music Class Videos are “screen time” – additional screen time should be limited. Grab some physical books for reading, listen to the music suggested in the “Listening Lab”, do the craft, or do some additional physical activities.

**It may never be easy, but it can be easier**

The changes that might be coming to your child’s education may be ones we never saw coming and may scare or worry you. But it is not impossible for your child to find success with alternative learning, they just need a little extra help from you.

It may never be easy. You and your kids did not choose this and that alone can be enough to make it difficult. But it can be easier when you follow some of these tips and find your own way to discover virtual video victory!