



## Interested in Suzuki Violin or Viola Lessons?

I'm so glad to hear about your interest in Suzuki lessons for your child—this is the beginning of a really special journey, full of meaningful musical moments and growth.

My name is Karyn Grove-Bruce. I am a Suzuki Viola Teacher Trainer and a registered Suzuki violin, viola, and Early Childhood Education teacher with the Suzuki Association of the Americas. I've been teaching for over 30 years and have completed training in Suzuki Violin Books 1–10, Viola Books 1–9, and Early Childhood Education Levels 1–5, along with many additional workshops and courses. You can view my full biography and training here: <https://suzukiassociation.org/person-profile/?uid=212785>.

I also serve as Director of the Suzuki Association of Southcentral Alaska, based in Anchorage, Alaska (<https://alaskasuzuki.org/>). As a parent, I've experienced the Suzuki journey firsthand—my daughter studied Suzuki piano, violin, and viola growing up.

If you're new to the Suzuki approach, a great introduction can be found here: <https://suzukiassociation.org/about/about-the-suzuki-method/>. At its core, I believe every child can learn to play the violin or viola when the student, parent, and teacher work together with commitment.

I teach out of my private studio ([kgbsuzukistudio.com](http://kgbsuzukistudio.com)) on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, and Saturday mornings.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### 1. Should I buy anything before we start?

Yes—and no. Please **do not purchase an instrument yet**. We'll discuss that at the first lesson, as it may take some time before a “real” instrument is needed.

You *should* have:

- Suzuki Book 1 (violin or viola), and the Step By Step Book 1A for violin
- Access to the recordings (CD or online—ask me for options)
- A notebook and pencil
- A bag to carry materials to and from lessons

#### 2. How long should daily practice be?

A good guideline is to practice about the same length as the lesson. For young children, it's best to divide this into several short sessions throughout the day. Ideally, practice happens 6–7 days per week.

### **3. How do I get my child to practice?**

This depends on your child's personality. Some respond well to sticker charts, others to games or simple encouragement. The key is consistency and a positive approach. Helpful parenting resources include:

- *The Child Whisperer*
- *Nurtured by Love*
- *Bonds That Make Us Free*
- *NurtureShock*
- *Teaching from the Balance Point*
- *How to Get Your Child to Practice...Without Resorting to Violence*
- *Helping Parents Practice*

### **4. What maintenance does a violin or viola require?**

- Replace strings about once a year
- Rehair the bow once a year
- Clean and polish the instrument regularly
- Wipe rosin off the strings and instrument daily
- Apply rosin to the bow every couple of days

### **5. When is the best time to begin lessons?**

Ages 0–4 are ideal for Suzuki Early Childhood Education classes, which prepare children for private lessons. Private lessons typically begin around ages 4–5, though older beginners are always welcome. Parents should be prepared to attend lessons, take notes, and support daily practice.

### **6. When can a student practice independently?**

Around age 8, students may begin practicing one day per week on their own. This gradually increases, with most students becoming fully independent by about age 14.

### **7. Are there discounts for multiple children?**

No, I do not offer sibling discounts.

### **8. Can lessons be recorded?**

Yes, recordings are welcome for personal reference only and may not be shared on social media.

### **9. Should I rent or buy an instrument?**

Quality of tone is the main focus. Buying is generally preferable, as they are generally better quality instruments and many shops offer trade-in options as your child grows. However, rentals can sometimes be an option at the beginning. We'll discuss the best option for your situation.

### **10. Why do you teach the Suzuki method?**

I strongly believe in Dr. Suzuki's philosophy of educating the whole child—not just

training a musician. The approach emphasizes character development, a nurturing environment, and a strong partnership between parent and teacher.

### **11. Why is listening important?**

Music is a language. Regular listening helps children internalize that language so they can play with ease, fluency, and confidence.

### **12. Why is review so important?**

Review builds a higher level of skill than learning new pieces. It allows students to refine tone, technique, and musicality—much like practice drills for athletes.

### **13. What does tuition cover?**

Tuition includes:

- Weekly private lessons
- Monthly group classes
- End-of-semester recital
- Studio events (e.g., Halloween group class)
- Practice incentives (stickers, small rewards)
- Teacher attendance at book recitals
- Administrative time
- Accompanist and venue for studio recitals

### **14. Are there additional costs?**

Yes, these may include:

- Accompanists for solo events
- Summer camps or workshops
- Instrument repair and maintenance
- Additional books or music
- Equipment (shoulder rest, chin rest, etc.)

### **15. How do I get started?**

Before enrolling, I ask that families:

- Observe at least one lesson and one recital (in person or via video)
- Meet with me to ask questions and ensure a good fit

Transfer students are encouraged to schedule a trial lesson before committing.