



Lesson 1—High and Low

Songs: “Hot Cross Buns,” “Up We Go!”



Concept: express high and low pitch through voice, movement, and the piano

Talk with your student about the sounds different animals make. Which animals make a high sound? Which animals make a low sound? Ask your student to vocalize: “Can you make that animal sound?”

Make the sound of a siren with your voice. Show the movement of low to high and high to low by holding your hand sideways and moving it up and down as the pitch rises and falls. Ask your student to do this vocal exercise with you.

Ask your student to find high and low pitches on the piano and place the pictures of the homework bears on the music holder— standing tall for high and squatting down for low.

Play the keys going up and down the keyboard by step with your student. Take turns, with one of you playing the keys moving up or down by step and the listener expressing the change in pitch by moving their body or their hand up and down. Talk with your student about careful playing: gentle and relaxed for beautiful sounds.

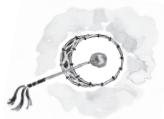


Theory: keyboard geography

Talk about the black and white keys on the piano and ask your student to play only white keys and then play only black keys.

Discuss groups of two and groups of three black keys on the keyboard and ask your student to find and play these groups of two and three. With a very young student, ask her/him to show you the number 2 with her/his fingers and then play groups of two black keys with those same fingers.

Name each group of two black keys a “doghouse” and ask your student to play and count all the doghouses on the keyboard. Find the letter D with the little dog on the keyboard chart. Have your student place the dog “in the doghouse” between a group of two black keys and play the white key D that he/she has found. Find other doghouses, put the chart there, and play those keys.



Rhythm/Ear Training: pitch matching and waiting places

Play a key near middle C on the keyboard, sing the tone while your student listens, and then ask your student to sing the same sound. Sometimes young children will sing in a monotone. Encourage your student to use her/his singing voice. Play an echo game, with you echoing your student’s sound, then your student echoing your sound. It can be very helpful to practice pitch matching at every lesson to develop your student’s vocal ability and pitch recognition.