

Having a hard time deciding which instrument to play?

The first consideration in selecting an instrument is **age-appropriateness**. We believe children are best suited to begin study of violin no earlier than age 6, piano no earlier than age 7, and guitar no earlier than age 8. *Starting an instrument too early before a child is physically, emotionally, and cognitively ready greatly increases the odds that the child will become frustrated and lose interest.*

Woodwind (flute, clarinet, oboe, saxophone, bassoon), brass (trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba), and percussion (drums, xylophone) instruction is best begun no earlier than age 10. Vocal instruction is best begun once the voice has matured sufficiently, usually around age 12.

Younger children who would like to play a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument once they are old enough would do well to learn piano in the meantime. Piano is a great starter instrument because the visual nature of the instrument makes it easy to see how the different pitches relate to each other. Plus, it is much easier to produce a pleasing tone quality and pitch on a piano than on most other instruments. Guitar and violin are also appropriate starter instruments as well.

Children too young to begin private piano study are strongly encouraged to join a Kindermusik class, in which they will learn and solidify concepts such as forte/piano and crescendo/decrescendo (dynamics), largo/allegretto/presto (tempo), staccato/legato (articulation), ostinato, reading rhythms and notes on the scale, writing original music, improvisation, and many other concepts that are important to master in order to have a successful private lesson experience in the future.

Kindermusik is both a fun and cost-effective way to prepare your child for future lesson study.

It is our joy to help guide you and your family in your musical journey! If you have further questions about private lessons, please contact Rick Wiltse at 616.805.3136 or lessons@allegroGR.org. If you have further questions about Kindermusik, please contact Noelle McCann at 616.301.3888 or office@allegroGR.org. We look forward to working with you!