

# Daily Piano Lesson: Getting to Know the White Keys

## Materials Needed

- A piano or electronic keyboard
- Small sticky notes or erasable marker for labeling keys
- A pencil and a blank piece of paper or notebook
- Device for listening to music and watching a video (phone, tablet, computer)
- (Optional) Crayons or colored pencils for the poster activity

## Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, Mrvacupanda will be able to:

- Confidently identify and locate the notes F, G, A, and B on the piano keyboard.
- Reinforce correct usage of finger numbers 1 (thumb), 2 (index), and 3 (middle).
- Play a C major scale (C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C) with the right hand.
- Play the first part of the melody "Lightly Row" using the notes C, D, E, F, and G.

## Lesson Introduction (5-7 minutes)

### 1. Ice Breaker: Finger "Simon Says"

Let's wake up our fingers! I'll be Simon. "Simon says, wiggle finger 1 (thumb)." "Simon says, tap finger 3 (middle finger) on your knee." "Simon says, wiggle fingers 1 and 2 together." Now, you be Simon and give me some instructions!

### 2. Prayer

Let's take a moment. "Lord, thank you for music. Help me to have fun, to learn something new, and to enjoy making sounds on the piano today. Amen."

### 3. Quick Review

Can you find all the C's on the keyboard? Remember, they live just to the left of the group of two black keys. Now, find C, D, and E. Great job!

## Instructional Procedures (15-20 minutes)

### 1. Exploration: Finding the New Notes (F, G, A, B)

We already know C, D, and E. The musical alphabet just keeps going! After E, we find F. Let's find it together.

- **Finding F:** Look for the group of **three black keys**. The white key just to the left of this group is F. Let's use a sticky note to label it 'F'. Can you find all the other F's?
- **Finding G, A, B:** Once you find F, the next white keys are G and A. They are tucked in between the three black keys. Let's label them. The last note before we get back to C is B. It lives just to the right of the three black keys. Label that one too!
- **Full Scale:** Now, look at the keys from one C to the next. You should see C, D, E, F, G, A, B. You've just discovered a full C major scale!

## 2. Explanation: Proper Hand Position

Place your right hand on the keys so your thumb (finger 1) is on Middle C. Let your other fingers curve naturally over the next keys: Finger 2 on D, Finger 3 on E. To play the whole scale, we will use a smooth motion. For today, we'll just focus on placing our fingers correctly on C, D, E, F, and G.

## 3. Application: Play "Lightly Row"

This is a wonderful melody that mostly uses the first five notes we know. Place your right hand with your thumb on Middle C. Let's play the first part of the song. The notes are:

**G - E - E | F - D - D | C - D - E - F - G - G - G**

Let's try it slowly together, one note at a time. I'll say the note name, and you play it. Let's do it again, but this time I'll say the finger number. Ready?

**5 - 3 - 3 | 4 - 2 - 2 | 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 5 - 5**

## 4. Reflection

Play a very low C on the piano. Now play a very high C. Which one sounds "brighter"? Which one sounds "deeper"? Now play the new notes F and G. How would you describe their sound compared to C and D? Is it happy, calm, or something else?

## Exercises (5-10 minutes)

- **Slow Scales:** Using your right hand, start with your thumb (1) on Middle C. Play each note up to G and back down very slowly: C(1), D(2), E(3), F(4), G(5)... then G(5), F(4), E(3), D(2), C(1). Focus on making each note sound clear and even.
- **Finger Lifts:** Place all five fingers of your right hand on C, D, E, F, G. Without making a sound, lift only your thumb (finger 1) up high, then place it back down gently. Now lift only your index finger (2). Continue this for all five fingers. This builds strength and control!

## Music Appreciation (5 minutes)

Let's listen to a piano version of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star." As you listen, close your eyes. Raise your hand when you hear the music get louder (this is called *forte*) and lower your hand when it gets softer (this is called *piano*—just like our instrument!). Did the musician play at the same speed the whole time? Discussing these changes helps us understand how to make our own playing more expressive.

## Video Lesson

For more practice on our song, we can watch this helpful video later this week: **Beginner Piano: Lightly Row**. It's a great way to see another person's hands and play along.

## Assessment and Evaluation

**Informal Check:** Let's play a quick game. I'll call out a note (F, G, or A), and Mrvacupanda, your job is to find and play it on the piano. Let's try it three times for each note. Don't worry about being fast, just focus on being accurate. We are celebrating the effort of learning!

## Integration with Other Subjects

- **Science:** When you press a key, a little hammer inside the piano strikes a string, which makes it vibrate. That vibration is what we hear as sound! A short, thin string vibrates very fast and makes a high-pitched sound. A long, thick string vibrates slowly and makes a low-pitched sound. Can you find the key that makes the longest string vibrate?
- **Language Arts:** In your notebook, write two sentences describing the piano. For example: "My piano has shiny black and white keys." or "The piano makes a loud sound when I press the keys hard."

## Differentiation and Personalization

- **For Kinesthetic Support:** Before playing "Lightly Row" on the piano, let's clap the rhythm. I'll say the notes, and we'll clap once for each note: "G (clap) E (clap) E (clap)..." This helps feel the beat in our bodies first.
- **For Visual Support:** Keep the sticky notes on the keys for the whole week. We can also use a printable chart that shows the notes on the keyboard and on the musical staff, placing it right on the piano's music stand.
- **For an Extra Challenge:** Can you figure out how to play the first five notes of "Lightly Row" (G, E, E, F, D, D) with your left hand? Your pinky (finger 5) would start on C. This is tricky, so it's just for fun!

## Real-Life Applications

This week, your mission is to be the family musician! When everyone is relaxing, offer to play the part of "Lightly Row" that you learned. You can also listen to the radio or other music and try to guess if the songs you hear use mostly high notes or low notes.

## Resources and Family Activity

- **Online Game:** Piano Key Identification Game (e.g., from a site like Musicca).
- **Family Activity: Create a "Piano Keys Poster"**

Let's make a big, colorful poster for our homeschool room! Draw a section of the piano keyboard. Color the keys and then clearly write the letter name (C, D, E, F, G, A, B) on each white key. You can even draw fun characters or things that start with that letter next to each key (like a Cat for C, or a Goose for G). This will be a fantastic reminder of all you've learned!