

Piano Power-Up: Finding Keys and Making Music! (Introduction to Keyboard and Yousician)

Materials List

- Keyboard or Piano (acoustic or digital)
- Tablet, smartphone, or computer with the Yousician app installed
- Pencil or crayon
- Optional: Small, removable stickers (dots) to mark Middle C, D, E
- Optional: Simple paper diagram of 8-10 piano keys

Learning Objectives (What We Will Learn)

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

1. Identify the groups of two and three black keys on the piano.
2. Locate Middle C using the pattern of black keys.
3. Play the first five musical notes (C, D, E, F, G) using the correct fingers.
4. Successfully start your first guided practice lesson on the Yousician app.

Introduction (10 Minutes)

The Hook: Magic Fingers

Educator Script: Imagine your hands have superpowers! Today, we are going to train those superpowers to speak the language of music on the piano. If you had magic fingers, what kind of song would you play first? A fast running song? A quiet sleepy song?

We are going to learn how the piano works like a secret code, and then we will use a special app called Yousician to start playing real songs!

Success Criteria

We know we are successful today if we can find the first five keys without help and get a "Great Job!" score from the Yousician app on our first practice.

Body: Finding the Code and Practicing (30 Minutes)

I Do: Identifying the Keyboard Map (Modeling)

Step 1: The Black Key Pattern

Content Delivery: Look closely at the piano. The black keys are not just scattered! They come in two groups: groups of **two**, and groups of **three**. We can call the groups of two the "Dog Houses" and the groups of three the "Triple Decker Sandwiches."

- **Activity: Observation Game.** Have the learner point to three different "Dog Houses" and three

different "Triple Decker Sandwiches."

Step 2: Locating Middle C (The Starting Line)

Instruction: Middle C is the most important key right now—it's the starting line! Middle C is always the white key immediately **to the left** of a "Dog House" (group of two black keys) that is near the middle of the piano.

Modeling: Educator points out the Dog House closest to the middle of the keyboard and plays the Middle C key while saying the name.

- (Optional Scaffolding: Place a small, removable sticker on Middle C.)

We Do: The Musical Alphabet (Guided Practice)

Step 3: Finding C, D, E, F, G

Content Delivery: Piano notes use the first seven letters of the alphabet, but we only need five today: C, D, E, F, G. They walk up the keyboard one step at a time, using only white keys.

- C is the key we found.
- D is the key right next to C.
- E is the key right next to D. (E is the last key next to the Dog House!)
- F is the key right next to E. (F is the key before the Triple Decker Sandwich!)
- G is the key right next to F.

Guided Activity: Five-Finger Warm-up.

Learner places their right hand fingers on C (thumb/finger 1), D (finger 2), E (finger 3), F (finger 4), G (finger 5).

Educator says the note, and the learner plays it, focusing on one note at a time: "C... D... E... F... G... G-F-E-D-C."

Step 4: Setting Up Yousician

Instruction: Yousician is like a game that listens to your piano. We need to make sure the device (tablet/phone) is placed where the microphone can easily hear the keys you are playing, but it shouldn't be covering your hands.

- Educator guides the learner to open the app and select the first introductory piano lesson (often titled "Welcome" or "Finding Middle C").
- **Formative Check:** Ask the learner, "Can the app hear you when you play C?" Adjust microphone placement as needed.

You Do: Playing Your First Song (Independent Practice)

Step 5: Yousician Practice Time

Activity: The learner attempts the first 1-2 exercises provided by Yousician. These usually focus on playing Middle C and timing the note correctly.

- **Success Review:** The educator observes the learner's technique (finger placement, finding the correct note) and watches the score on the screen.

- If the learner struggles, pause the app and return to Step 3 (We Do) for quick review of the C key location.

Step 6: Creative Challenge (Application)

Activity: Ask the learner to "Write a Secret Message" using only the C, D, and E keys. They can play any combination they want (e.g., C-E-D-C). This reinforces the ability to move between the notes they just learned freely.

- **Feedback:** Ask, "Does your message sound happy or mysterious?"

Conclusion (10 Minutes)

Recap and Review (Tell Them What You Taught)

Review Questions:

1. What do we call the groups of two black keys? (Dog Houses)
2. Which white key is Middle C located next to? (The Dog House/group of two, on the left)
3. Can you point and play the notes C, D, and E for me one last time?

Assignment and Next Steps

Goal for next time: Continue practicing the first three Yousician introductory exercises (focusing on C, D, and E) and try to achieve an 'Excellent' rating on each one.

Reflection: What was the easiest part of learning the piano today? What felt tricky?

Differentiation and Adaptability

Scaffolding (For Struggling Learners)

- **Color Coding:** Use the optional stickers to color-code Middle C (red), D (blue), and E (green). Remove stickers only after they have mastered the placement.
- **Focus Reduction:** Cover all keys except the C, D, and E section with a sheet of paper so the visual field is less confusing.
- **Rhythm Help:** Tap the rhythm on the learner's shoulder or knee as they play the notes in the Yousician exercise to help with timing.

Extension (For Advanced Learners)

- **Advanced Location:** Challenge the learner to find the next C key (High C) and play C-D-E-F-G using the left hand as well.
- **Rhythm Introduction:** Use the C key to practice simple quarter notes (one beat) and half notes (two beats), clapping the rhythm before playing it.
- **Sight Reading Preview:** If comfortable, briefly show them how the notes C, D, E look on the music staff within the Yousician app.