

MATT MURPHY PERCUSSIVE SERVICES

Drum Set Lessons

Frequently Asked Questions

Q) How old does my child have to be in order to take drum lessons with Matt?

A) I prefer a child to be at least 8 years of age at the onset of lessons due to the physical nature of the instrument and being able to reach all the pedals. I recommend the parent(s) sit in during the lessons for younger children as they can help keep the child focused and also learn what the child needs to practice throughout the week. I have taught children as young as 2 and do make exceptions based on each child's individual abilities.

Q) Do I need a full drum set in order to take lessons?

A) No! I recommend a practice pad and a pair of sticks for beginning students. I provide all the needed materials in the form of handouts and handwritten assignments. The initial investment is minimal. Practice pads run between \$20 and \$30 and a pair of sticks runs about \$7. I have a proven method for teaching coordinated independence using just the practice pad that translates directly over to the drum set!

Q) How much should I practice?

A) The old cliché! about getting out what you put in holds true. I'm not a taskmaster when it comes to my students. Some students want to take drum lessons for fun and some want to make a career out of drumming. I'm simply there to motivate, provide instruction/direction and keep things fun and interesting! Due to the importance of developing proper muscle memory, the quality of practicing is more important than the quantity. Consistency is key! Shorter more consistent practicing is more beneficial than longer "cram" sessions.

Q) What size sticks should I get?

A) Whatever feels comfortable in your hands!

Q) When should I buy a drum set?

A) A drum set should be purchased ONLY when you or your child are serious about the instrument. Buying a drum set is an expensive and daunting task that can be very confusing with all the brands, types, sizes, levels, and accessories. When the time comes to take the leap, I am here to provide advice and offer help.

Q) Which are better: home based teachers or studio based teachers?

A) It all depends on your needs. Both have their advantages. Larger studios tend to have multiple teachers so it may be easier to accommodate your schedule. Studios often provide self-contained stores where you can purchase accessories. Studios also usually offer performance opportunities in the form of recitals. Home based teachers offer the consistency of having the same teacher in the same comfortable location. Home based teachers focus on teaching and teaching only; the headaches of running a larger business won't interfere with

your musical education. Home-based teachers can provide a personal touch that quite often is lacking in a corporate studio setting. Having personally co-owned a large teaching studio, I much prefer teaching out of my home studio. I liken the difference between studio-based lessons and home based lessons to the difference between HMO's and a personal family doctor. It's not that one is necessarily better than the other. They both provide the same basic service. They just do it in a different manner.

Q) What qualities should I look for in a drum teacher?

A) PATIENCE - A good teacher is patient and realizes that not everyone learns at the same pace, nor is everyone interested in pursuing a professional career in drumming. EDUCATION - A strong educational background including both formal education and private instruction can provide a teacher with all the proper tools necessary to impart knowledge easily and effectively. EXPERIENCE - Nothing can substitute real world performing, recording and touring experience when it comes to tempering academic knowledge with practical knowledge. VERSATILITY - The ability to play many musical styles makes for well-rounded students and provides the teacher with the flexibility to accommodate each student's individual needs and learning style. ORGANIZATION - Good organizational skills enable the teacher to ensure each student receive a quality, consistent, personalized lesson each session. PASSION - The teacher's job is not only to impart knowledge but to encourage and motivate.