

# Welcome to SPIRAL!

**SPIRAL** is a unique **sequential piano readiness program** for 4 to 5-1/2 y.o. offered at the Do-Re-Mi School.

Any child whose parents consider piano lessons for him or her will be admitted into SPIRAL. The **SPIRAL** system is NOT intended to "diagnose" the level of abilities, make any prognosis about a child's future success, nor give recommendations whether or not to pursue piano instruction, but to develop each child's abilities and teach him certain skills vital for a sustained, successful piano endeavor. Piano preparatory lessons can be given in a small group, semi-private or private setting; lesson contents remain the same.

**At the end of the introductory course, we expect each child to acquire certain skills and abilities:**

- play a familiar simple tune based on up to 8 consecutive, as well as repeated, notes on resonator bars and white keys of the piano correctly
- tap or clap steady beat along with recorded or performed music
- clap or tap a short rhythm pattern (2-4 beats) consisting of quarter and eighth notes
- compare sounds, such as higher, lower, the same; recognize the melody direction (up or down)
- recognize three-tone patterns (containing three tones of different pitches) and find corresponding notation card
- recognize by ear, know the terms and find corresponding cards with symbols for music sounding loud and soft (forte and piano), gradually louder and gradually softer (crescendo and decrescendo), smoothly and detached (legato and staccato), as well as with accents
- to move arms naturally, with elbows and wrists relaxed (while playing on the drums or resonator bars)
- know right and left hand
- know finger numbers and be able to move each particular finger on request
- know names of white keys on the piano
- be able to show and recognize by ear high, middle and low register
- play a familiar tune on two or three neighboring piano keys with 2 or 3 middle fingers (except thumb and pinkie)

**The parents will have access to video clips that will guide them how to help a child to practice.**

**During the course, a child's readiness will be reassessed, and recommendations for transition into traditional piano lessons will be made.**

Piano readiness program has been developed by Marina Goldin, a highly trained professional in areas of piano instruction, ear training and early childhood music. Among her students are competition winners who have performed at Carnegie Hall, as well as admitted to pre-college division of world-famous Juilliard School (NY). Mrs. Goldin is a recipient of the prestigious Madam Genia Robinor Pedagogy Award. For her paper on teaching piano beginners how to read music, Mrs. Goldin was invited to the MTNA (Music Teacher's National Association) National Conference in Washington, D.C. (2002). Mrs. Goldin was later invited as a panelist to the NJ MTA Conference (2006) early childhood panel, "Transition from Early Childhood Classes to Traditional Piano Lessons." In 2008, Mrs. Goldin presented a paper entitled, "Basics Before Method Books", at the World Piano Pedagogy Conference "Back to Basics" (Dallas, TX), a conference dedicated to the teachers of beginners. Mrs. Goldin served as a judge at MEA Piano Festival (2007) and Golden Key Piano Festival (2011)