

# PLAY MORE TO PLAY BETTER

---

## BUILDING MUSICIANSHIP THROUGH GAMES

Joy Morin | [joymorinpiano@gmail.com](mailto:joymorinpiano@gmail.com) | [ColorInMyPiano.com](http://ColorInMyPiano.com)

### WHY DOES PLAY MATTER?

---

What happens to learning when there is no sense of play?

What associations do we/kids have with games? How can we leverage this?

### GROUP GAMES/ACTIVITIES FOR MIXED AGES

---

- (My “Piano Parties” are held once a month, with mixed ages/levels, Sunday afternoons.)
- With mixed age groups, avoid theory in favor of rhythm, ear training, performing, listening, improvisation, music history...nearly *anything* else!
- Provide food. (Or ask your students to!)

### GAMES IN TEACHING

---

Know your teaching goals.

Know the essence of the game.

Know the right time for the right game.

### MY GO-TO GAMES

---

1. **Amazing Keyboard Race** - Practices key names. Optional: include #s and bs.
2. **Recognizing Rhythm Patterns Aurally** and **Swat-A-Rhythm game**
3. **Heartbeat Charts activity** - Simplified rhythm dictation.
4. **Rhythm Dictation** - Use cards to notate rhythms. Optional: race against another team!
5. **Grand Staff Pass** - Practices note names. Mixed ages/levels okay!
6. **Ice Cream Interval Game** - Practices interval recognition. Solo or group activity.
7. **Trick or Treat Rhythm Game** - Practices performing rhythm patterns. Solo or group.

See more games at [ColorInMyPiano.com](http://ColorInMyPiano.com) > [Printables](#) > [Games](#).

## TIPS FOR GETTING STARTED WITH GAMES

---

- **You have time** for games. :) Use games for teaching moments you would have anyway.
- **Keep it simple.** Choose only games that you know you want as staples in your teaching.
- **Stay organized.** Be able to easily find what you need when you want it. See [this blog post](#).

TAKEAWAY: What if I used play and/or games more in my teaching? What else can I do to increase engagement in my students?

## WHERE TO FIND GAMES

---

- Joy's blog: [ColorInMyPiano.com](http://ColorInMyPiano.com)
- [TeachersPayTeachers.com](http://TeachersPayTeachers.com)
- [VibrantMusicTeaching.com](http://VibrantMusicTeaching.com)
- [SusanParadis.com](http://SusanParadis.com)
- [SherylWelles.blogspot.com](http://SherylWelles.blogspot.com)
- [ComposeCreate.com](http://ComposeCreate.com)
- [Tonic: The Card & Dice Game for Musicians](#)
- [TeachPianoToday.com](http://TeachPianoToday.com)
- Three Cranky Women: [TCWresources.com](http://TCWresources.com)
- Jennifer Foxx: [musiceducatorresources.com](http://musiceducatorresources.com)
- Jennifer Fink: [pianimation.com](http://pianimation.com)
- Melody Payne: [melodypayne.com](http://melodypayne.com)
- Music dice: [ThePracticeShoppe.com](http://ThePracticeShoppe.com)

*Please visit [joymorin.com/games](http://joymorin.com/games) for a digital version of this handout with live links.*