



Delivering the Foundation Session with Ease

2025 MTC/ILC Virtual Retreat

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what is the Foundation Session?

Sections

1. Welcome & Purpose
2. Culture of Music Education
3. "Breakthrough" - what we mean
4. Formalities / Studio Policies
5. How SM Works (Private vs Shared Lessons; Reading Music); SHMs
6. Practice Time; Method & Life Coach
7. Relationship Conversation

Managing the Foundation Session Content

LOTS of content - I don't deliver all in one lesson

- Too much to absorb in one sitting?
- Students excited to get to the piano
- Opportunity to get the basics started and the fingers moving before diving into Dreams

Suggested plans for dividing the content

2-WEEK PLAN:

Lesson 1: Sections 1–5

Lesson 2: Sections 6–7

3-WEEK PLAN:

Lesson 1: Sections 1–4

Lesson 2: Sections 5–6

Lesson 3: Section 7

4-WEEK PLAN:

Lesson 1: Sections 1, 2, 4

Lesson 2: Sections 3, 5

Lesson 3: Section 6

Lesson 4: Section 7

Tips

1. Prepare your families in advance for what to expect the first month
 - First half of lesson - talking; laying a strong foundation
 - Second half of lesson - get to the piano!
2. At Lesson 1, after Foundation Session sections:
 - Start on the Basics - usually all except chords
 - This prepares their fingers to start Dreams Come True Lesson 2 (and chords from the Basics if ready)
3. LTR Conversation
 - Use Neil's book: Music and the Art of Long-Term Relationships
 - Companion "Discussion Starters" available in Teacher Library
4. Know the 4 Stated Goals - Repertoire, self, self, self
 - Broad repertoire of various styles
 - Experience playing as a natural self-expression
 - Learn to self-generate (progress independently)
 - Have a highly positive, self-affirming experience
5. Revisit the topics as the opportunity presents itself as relevant

Foundation Session Slide Show

- Walks you through each topic
- Graphics, animation keep interest and attention
- Available [HERE](#) in Ivory League Store