

Suzuki Twinkle Variations — Skills Development

By the completion of the Twinkle Variations (A, B, C, D both RH and LH) your student should have developed the twenty skills below.

Many of these may be in very basic developmental stages, but the student acknowledges their ongoing importance and continued development. *It could take upwards of 15 weeks to master all of these skills simultaneously before moving on to more advanced repertoire in the Suzuki curriculum.* The skills taught in the Twinkle Variations will be used throughout the rest of Book 1 and in all piano music for the student's entire lifetime, therefore shortcuts are not advised!

1. Balanced bow with poise and control
2. Daily listening to CD
3. Sitting position:
 - Straight back
 - Arm in line with wrist
 - 90° angles at knees and elbows
4. Rounded hand position:
 - Thumb on piano
 - Strong final finger joints
 - Playing on edges of fingers (but not nails)
5. Concentration exercises
6. Ready position: a combination of elements 3, 4, and 5.
7. High and low sounds on the piano
8. The musical alphabet – forwards and backwards
9. Rhythm (clapping, identifying, playing)
 - Quarter notes
 - 8th notes
 - 16th notes
10. Identification of melodic patterns:
 - upward/downward moving melodies
 - staccato/legato melodies
 - piano/forte melodies
11. Knowledge of left & right hands and finger numbers
12. High arm bounce - large staccatos
13. Wrist rolls for gentle release – long tones
14. Wrist bounce – quick staccatos
15. Tonalization – legato
16. Daily practice skills—creating routine
17. Duet playing with teacher
18. Positive attitude!
19. Teamwork with parent
20. Singing while playing

