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Teaching Little Fingers To Play: A Book For The Earliest Beginner (John Thompsons Modern Course For The Piano)



Synopsis

A series for the early beginner combining rote and note approach. The melodies are written with careful thought and are kept as simple as possible, yet they are refreshingly delightful. All the music lies within the grasp of the child's small hands.

Book Information

Series: John Thompson's Modern Course for the Piano

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (634 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

One of my sons just loves playing these songs as a supplement to his Suzuki instruction. They are catchy and progress very gradually--much more gradually than the Suzuki repertoire. Then, his twin brother, whom I've tried for years to interest in music, thought the songs from this book were so cool that he has started playing them and now wants music lessons, too! I'm so thrilled. I think he has always found the Suzuki progression to be too intimidating and fast. This one takes it slower and has much cuter pictures.

Despite what the title says, "A Book For The Earliest Beginner", I feel that it's not for the kids younger than 6 or 7. Requiring to read the music notes on the lines right from the beginning is too much for the kids who barely know alphabets. This book could be fine for older kids or for supplementing other courses. Try Alfred's books which I found much easier and gradual on very young children. If they are under 5, you could try Alfred's Prep Course.

My 6 yo daughter loves this book. We bought three beginner books from here and this is her favorite and she "plays" all the time. I like that it is easier to use than some of the others. It is very easy to teach from, but she can figure a lot of it out herself. It is written towards a child's perspective.

I began teaching beginner piano students in January of this year. Wanting to give unfamiliar methods a try, I chose this book for one of my 6 year old beginners. She seemed to really enjoy the songs...and it wasn't until about 2/3 of the way through it that I realized she was not learning to read the notes. I finally noticed why - EVERY note for every song in the entire book has a finger number under it, and my student was just reading the finger numbers rather than memorizing what the notes looked like. I was wondering why my supplemental note-training was not sticking! I do not recommend this method at all if you want your students to learn to read music, and I am disappointed for the temporary set-back in my student's training. I have switched to Alfred, and it has been perfect for all my young beginners.

Just a note from a 77 year old man. About 1944 (in the war) my mother got me a big square piano, and a teacher, who brought along a copy of Teaching Little Fingers to play. Oddly, I sailed through the thing, and since that time have continued to play (badly). It is a lovely memory. It's a little like Dick and Jane, which I also happened to like! Jerry O'Dell

This is the best book ever written for teaching little children to play. The songs are very catchy and fun. I still remember all of them by memory. It's the same book I learned piano, around 20 years ago. But they have upgraded it to a very cute book. I thought piano to a couple of my small cousins with this. Excellent!

My 4 yr. old daughter is enrolled in a Yamaha music school class for 4-5 yr. olds. I bought this book to give us some supplementary songs to practice. The songs in this book are extremely musical and enjoyable; I would have given the book 5 stars except for the use of the superlative "earliest" in the title, as the pace and level of the book is much faster and higher than what she gets from the music school (which I believe is generally what Yamaha has discovered over many years is readily doable for the youngest beginners). This book is actually nice for an adult beginner.

i just started teaching piano and found this book. i love it and so does the student. the songs are in just the right order of difficulty and each has something new to learn. the duets are a lot of fun!!! i'm

going to order the next book in this series very soon. i wish i had started with this book as a child. it is sooo cool. best wishes, Liz

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