

# *Lessons with Mrs. Livingston* \*

[www.raisingamazingchildren.com/lessons/](http://www.raisingamazingchildren.com/lessons/)

**Studio Policies** (aka the “*Seriously? I really have to read all this?*” document)

## *Rates*

30-minute private violin lesson: \$20.

30-minute Bonjour, Mes Amis! © French group lessons, series of six: \$140 (\$20/session plus \$20 materials fee) (Class size limited to 4 students)

30-minute Delicious Music © lessons, series of six: \$120 (\$15/session plus \$10 materials fee AND your own set of resonator bells, available through [www.westmusic.com](http://www.westmusic.com), item no.200240.) Additional 30-minute supervised playtime afterwards, \$60. (Class size limited to 6 students)

## *Siblings*

Siblings in the same 30-minute lesson can receive a reduced rate of \$10 per lesson in addition to the first sibling’s rate of \$20. Siblings whose lessons are combined for a 60-minute lesson are still \$20/each, or \$40/hour. Mothers are always welcome to attend any lesson. Mothers must be present during private lessons.

Some private studios do not allow siblings who are not paying for the lesson to be there, but I would like to allow this at private lessons because my heart and house is a child-friendly home, and because I know how hard it is to have to figure out babysitting for every lesson for every child. Siblings who are not registered for the private lesson are welcome *under the following conditions:*

1. They are not sick.
2. Mother’s supervision of the children is not disruptive to the lesson. (Please whisper only when it’s absolutely necessary to communicate with your child.)

3. Mom is supervising them carefully so they don't damage any toys, books, or furniture. Moms will have to cover the cost of replacing items that are damaged. Because our home library is extensive, some of the books are irreplaceable, and they are my legacy for my grandchildren. I am happy to have children enjoy reading the books if they can do so without damaging them.
4. We have toys to play with, and they can play with them as long as they are not disruptive to the lesson *and* Mom and child(ren) put the toys away afterwards. I think it's very important for children to learn to put things away after they play. Mom should not do it for them. She can help, but the child should be helping as well.
5. Moms are welcome to nurse babies as long as they use a blanket so that they can be modest while doing so in consideration of the others at the lesson. Changing babies should happen in the bathroom on the floor and messy diapers taken out to the trash outside tied up in a grocery bag. Also, mothers need to be sure that their child flushes the toilet and washes their hands after using the bathroom. (The light turns on and off automatically, so you don't have to worry about that. ☺)
6. Siblings that are old enough to play outside on their own are welcome to do so with the same policies: they are well-behaved, careful/not destructive, and not so noisy that they disrupt the lesson.

## *Payment*

Please pay for lessons before the first of the month, or before the series of lessons, if it is a class series.

Private lessons are paid for by the month for the number of scheduled lessons that month. If we schedule 3 lessons, then you will pay for 3, etc. This allows us both a little more flexibility due to vacations, etc. To cancel a lesson, see "Cancellations" below.

You may pay by cash or check or use PayPal. (I have to set that up on my website, but I know my husband can help me with that.)

In some circumstances, you may also pay via trade, if you arrange for that ahead of time. (Please contact me when wanting to register your child to discuss a trade.) I once cleaned a dance studio bathroom and waiting room to help cover the cost of one of my daughter's dance lessons. I really appreciated her teacher's willingness to allow me to do that. And I might teach your child on scholarship for part of the cost if they are super students, if it is a difficult financial time for your family.

### *Pick-up/ Drop Off*

Mothers must attend private lessons.

You can drop off your child for a group lesson. Please be prompt in dropping off and picking up your child. I have other commitments with my own children during the day and cannot always be at home to stay with a child who is still there. Children should come straight in after knocking once (unless the door is locked, then they can knock more!). Our doorbell does not work.

### *Food/ Drink*

Children should not eat or drink at the lessons, especially not in any other area except the kitchen. We might have a treat at our lessons sometimes, but that will typically be taken home to eat. Please let me know if your child has any dietary restrictions.

### *Phones/ Texting*

I am so grateful for cellphones and texting! As a mother of a large family, I often use texting as a way to coordinate the ever-changing locations and activities to which my children go. However, there is a time and a place for cellphone conversations. If you must answer a cell call, please leave the room and go outside and return as quickly as possible. Also, please turn off all sounds and alerts so that if you have to text someone, it isn't disruptive. I would feel very awkward having to tell a mother to please silence her phone or to turn it off and put it away. I know some music teachers don't allow them at all in lessons, but I want to be compassionate and helpful while having a high standard of trust for my students' parents. As parents, we are constantly modeling appropriate and inappropriate

technology use to our children. Please teach your child *by example* how to be deferential and polite.

## *Disciplining a Child or Answering for Them*

If your child has a problem in class with the lesson, I will help her/him work through it. If they are having another kind of issue, I will defer to the parent to help out. Typically, when asking about practicing or other lesson-related questions, I would prefer that the child answer. This can be hard as a mom to do: to allow the lesson to be between the teacher and the child, but it really can develop self-reliance in the child, which is our ultimate goal! So try not to jump into the conversation and answer for your child.

## *Practicing*

Ah ha! The heart of what we're all about! When we want to learn a skill, we have to practice it. My feeling is that a little done with happiness or patience and parent perseverance is far better than a lot done in misery. And I also have seen that young children can practice on their own (not every day), depending on their age, even if it sounds terrible. I do not share the same philosophy as some music teachers that every practice session should be as perfect as possible. God doesn't even do that to us! We simply do our best. And allowing a child to practice on their own is really good for them (and you).

So practice as often as is appropriate for the child's age, development, and personality. However, if you toss off being able to participate as the parent because it is too hard or because your child throws a tantrum, then we better work something out. With young students, non-participation as a parent usually equals student failure. Each week at our lesson, we'll discuss how practice went that week. The key to success is learning *how to practice* both independently and with another person (including your MOM) ☺.

I expect every child to practice six days a week for the minimum number of minutes we determine together. I would also hope that the child enjoys their practicing enough to do more than the minimum amount at least twice each week. If they aren't enjoying the music, then we need to figure out a way to help them.

PRACTICING IS WORK. It isn't a party, but it doesn't have to be a drag. We learn how to practice in a way that makes it enjoyable.

## *Cancellations*

If you can't come for any reason, let me know. If you or your child is sick, please give me as much notice as possible. I hardly have any time for make-up classes, but we'll do our best to set one up. I don't make-up the summer series classes—only private lessons. If you have a vacation scheduled during one of the series classes, you can drop that one class cost from your tuition. But if you are missing more than one, you will still need to pay for the rest. If you have to miss a make-up lesson, then I will usually not refund you for it.

Life changes. If you want to stop taking lessons, please call me to give at least 2 weeks notice. If it is sooner than that and there are not unusual circumstances, I won't refund your tuition. Refunds are not available on series classes. Thanks!

## *Talk to Me*

In all my years (17?) of music lessons with my children, I have learned that the WORST part of taking music (or language or whatever subject area) lessons can be communication with the teacher, or rather, lack of it.

PLEASE don't be scared of me. I might be strict with your child as a teacher (and hopefully fun, too) but I have "Been there, done that" as a mother in many scenarios you can think of. We have gone to our fair share of lessons not having practiced enough/well/at all. I don't recommend it, but I certainly will understand it. I have had plenty of music (or dance or whatever) lessons in which my child has been tantruming the whole way, begging, pleading and promising their first born child is they can only quit taking the lessons! My children have said an unsavory thing or two in their efforts to persuade me to stop. And I have had to stop taking lessons for a child or two because we could no longer afford them. (Have I covered the biggest concerns?) So I think I can safely say that I will have empathy for whatever concern you might bring to me, including the fact that your child doesn't like me as a teacher, which is also TOTALLY fine.

\*And parents can call me Liz. *But your child should not.* Mrs. Livingston or Sister Livingston is great. I've watch manners go from bad to worse over the last 20 years (I sound like a grandma), and I'm going to do my part to help children learn to show respect to adults. If you have taught in all of the varied settings that I have, you probably share my passion about this. 😊

OK, I think that's everything. If not, please do call, text, or email me: 801.318.0851. [liz@raisingamazingchildren.com](mailto:liz@raisingamazingchildren.com). Thanks! I'm SO excited to teach your child! 😊

After you have read this document with your child, please sign below.

*I have read EVERY WORD of this very long, detailed disclosure document*

AND

*I agree to abide by it.*

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Child's signature

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Parent's signature

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Date