**Lesson 2**

**3:45 and 4:45 Classes:**

In this past class we reviewed:

-Rest position

-Statue of Liberty

-Play Position

Many of the students by now are aware of the differences between rest and play position. Some still need help to place the violin over the collarbone, under the jaw, close to the neck. While practice at home, guide your child’s violin to the correct place. Remember: muscles should be relaxed, shoulders down, and do not lay down the head over the violin, keep the head straight.

Practice: place the violin in play position, going back and forth into rest position. Keep practicing the Statue of Liberty to strengthen the muscles of the left arm. Practice tapping fingers over the high dot using the Mississippi River rhythm while in Play and Rest positions.

We began learning our first song- Eggs:

*Eggs, Eggs, Eggs, flying through the*

*Air, Air, Air, landing in the*

*Dirt, Dirt, Dirt, crashing to the*

*Ground, Ground, Ground.*

With this song we will learning the violin strings (E, A, D, G), and develop the left hand coordination. Students should pluck the strings with the pink finger 3 times, starting from the E string when singing the word “Eggs”, A for “Air”, D for “Dirt”, and G for “Ground”.

Bow Hold:

"Magic marks" drawn on the right hand will help the student place the bow in the correct place. We initially practiced the bow hold with a pencil. Fingers should always be relaxed, curved, and have gentle hold. Do not squeeze the bow with the fingers -see pictures.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbRPd_WvLSY>

**4:15 and 5:15 Classes:**

1) Review from last week:

a) Instrument care

b) Violin and Bow parts

2) Violin parts quiz- The students labeled as many parts of the violin as they could on a blank picture of a violin.

3) Setting up instrument:

a) Put bottom of the case on a flat surface.

b) Unzip both zippers all the way or unlatch all latches.

c) Carefully put your sponge or shoulder rest on. For sponges, make sure your rubber band is on the left side of the instrument (chin rest side) from the C bout, criss-crossing to the end button. Then place sponge underneath rubber band. Put thin side of the sponge, on the outside. With shoulder rest, carefully place the rubber toes of the shoulder rest around the rib of the backside of the violin. Make sure the hump in the shoulder rest is where your collar bone/shoulder fits. It should feel comfortable when you play.

4) Reviewing/learning holding the instrument- from rest position to playing position. See notes from last week. Keep left hand over high dot.

5) Learning the Eggs piece! -Plucking each string three times beginning with E. As you move to the lower strings, bring elbow with you. Please see instructional videos: The first one has a few things we have not gone over in class yet, but is very helpful. The second video is just a simple show of the Eggs piece by itself.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbRPd_WvLSY>

<http://youtu.be/ZCwlkWlxHCU>

6) This week, practice getting instrument from rest position to playing position from statue of liberty. Then practice EGGS.

*Eggs, Eggs, Eggs, flying through the*

*Air, Air, Air, landing in the*

*Dirt, Dirt, Dirt, crashing to the*

*Ground, Ground, Ground.*

If there are any musically inclined parents, they can help sing along with their kids as they are practicing. But it is very important for parents to help their kids to practice!! Also I briefly touched on beginning to think about the bow hold with a pencil. Make A-ok symbol between thumb and middle finger at the first inside knuckle on the middle finger. Put the pencil between this connection. Let all fingers hang over and the pinky goes on top. This is just an introduction to beginning to think about the bow hold. We will focus a lot more on this next lesson.

Please let me know if you have any questions. You can email me at mjpickart@gmail.com