

## Sample Teaching Sequence

by Christine Barden

1. Every class begins by singing the “Hello Song” with the animals.  
(There are new “Hello Songs” and new animals introduced in the each book.)
2. We always do a couple “Listen and Sing” songs (solfège), sometimes dancing with scarves.
3. In the earliest classes, there is an Activity Song.
4. I sing and play a Signal Song, “Go to Your Keyboards and sit on your chair, and we will play some music there.”
5. Next we play a couple of pieces they know at their keyboards, or do patterns from a new piece.

I constantly watch to make sure they are still able to focus.

6. We get up and dance more, do some flash cards, or write on their white boards.
7. Then back to the keyboards to play again, always review pieces where I know they can stay with the accompaniment, and I work on hand position. When they are just beginning to get the notes, often the hand position suffers. That’s why I never give a sticker after one week on a piece. I say, “We are building toward the Carnegie Hall performance of...*The D Song*.” After it becomes familiar, *they* can focus more on hand position.
8. I always end with the most fun thing I can think of like, “Mr. Elephant’s Funky Dance” or “Head and Shoulders Baby;” something high energy, before sending them home.
9. We end by singing the “Goodbye Song” and they receive stickers.