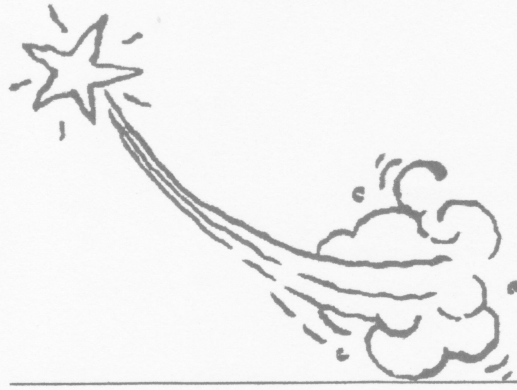




Why Twinkle?

This song is already familiar to children.

The first four notes of Twinkle are open strings on the violin- A A E E, and the next note, F# only requires one finger.

There are 5 Twinkle rhythm variations (we play the notes of Twinkle Twinkle with different rhythms, such as "Mississippi Hot Dog"). These rhythms are some of the building blocks of music, and will be encountered in the future.

The first year of study is more than just learning how to play Twinkle, it is learning how to hold and play the instrument. Fingers, hands, arms, shoulders and body must be held in just the right way, and it is important not to take this lightly. The more time you spend on the foundation of posture, the more success you will have in the future, your teacher will not need to spend time on remedial issues, and the student will set up to do advanced technical pieces.

Children can stand repetition better than adults. If during practice you are tired of hearing Twinkle- don't show it, they will pick up on your feelings and grow tired of it too. Instead, support and encourage the technical side. You can say things like "I really like how your bow was straight when you played that time".

We are never "done" with Twinkle. Just like when we learn words, we don't stop using the first words we learned, rather we build upon them. The teacher might introduce a new technical element, and in order to focus on that specific thing, they might ask the student to do it with Twinkle, so they won't have to focus on what notes to play, but can focus all energy on the particular technique. Children also tend to want to play things they are confident in, so when asked to play, Twinkle might be a first choice even if they have many songs past it. This is ok, and should be supported.