*Before We Begin...*

Congratulations on making the commitment to start your family’s Suzuki violin journey! Here are the things to do prior to beginning lessons and while the Suzuki parent takes their three “parent-only” lessons.

1. Assemble the materials listed on the Streetcar Suzuki Website. Keller Strings is my preferred location to rent violins. Bring your child with you so that they may be measured and sized correctly. Visit the password protected page (password is “twinkle”) and print the calendar and other helpful information.
2. Please print the following documents from the website to keep in your binder: the semester calendar, the ideas for practice and repetition, the first five lessons, lyrics for the pre-twinkle and Book 1 pieces, practice chart, and growth mindset chart. Please keep these in a three ring binder, and make enough copies of the practice chart to last the semester.
3. Find a safe and temperature-controlled place to put the violin until your first parent lesson. It is incredibly tempting for a child to want to play the violin before lessons begin, but allowing it will inhibit their progress on the violin. Please let me set them up correctly on the violin; teaching a child to hold the violin is a wonderful challenge, but un-teaching incorrect habits that a child has taught themselves is a tough way to start our journey together. I am always happy to take the blame for this! (“Ms. Chloe says we must wait until our first lesson). Some children like to name their violins and draw pictures of then to display!
4. Start to listen daily to the Suzuki CD. Find a regular time in your family’s routine to listen, such as during school commutes or meal times. Dr. Suzuki said that he would hope for a child to hear Twinkle Twinkle on the recording a thousand times before even beginning to learn it.
5. Decide with your child where you would like to do your daily practice together. Choose a quiet corner away from pets and media. Consider adding a rug, basket, framed photo of you and your child, or some musical art to the walls. Work together to make it a welcome and warm spot.
6. Parents should read “Nurtured by Love” by Shinichi Suzuki and “Beyond the Music Lesson” by Christine Goodner. Both are available on Amazon.
7. Listen or watch YouTube videos or recordings of professional violinists together.
8. Sing songs together, play “copycat” games, and do projects together (weeding the garden, baking muffins) to work on increasing your patience and endurance with one another.

I am thrilled to begin this wonderful journey with you!