

# Sample Learning Plan #2: Reading Music

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Below is an example of how I teach note reading, and a plan that you can follow to do it on your own!

## **Reading Piano Music for Beginners (10 through adult)**

I like to introduce reading notes in a slightly different order for older students, since they are usually ready to play with both hands simultaneously right away. Again, it's important to introduce information in an order where it can immediately be used to do something in the real world. The plan below focuses on building reading skills from the beginning through to level 1.

### **What You'll need:**

- **Quizlet** (Free platform for drilling on [Quizlet.com](https://www.quizlet.com) or Quizlet App)
- **Treblemakers Piano Method Book 1** - Free on kindle unlimited, or you can buy a hard copy. Contains groups of songs to play for each note range
- **Free Downloads** - Links below for additional music to make sure each micro level has enough songs to master note range

**How Long On Each Step:** Few days to one week, depending on how many days of practice

**Practices Per Week:** 3-7

**Time Per Practice:** 5-15 minutes

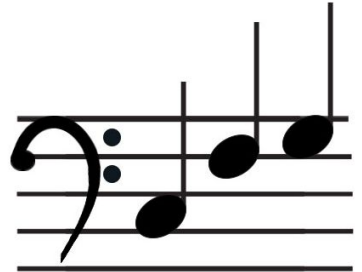
**Time To Completing Goal:** 9 weeks (2-3 months)

### Step 1:

- Introduce C, D, and E ([Getting Started Playlist on Youtube](#)) or pg 1-7 in book
- Drill on notes using Quizlet [Piano Note Reading 1](#)
- Quizlet [C, D, and E Permutations](#) (quizzing on all possible combinations of C, D, and E). Quiz in "Write" mode and play on piano as you go
- Play C, D, and E songs, then say note names (pg 8-17)
- Add rhythm (covered in video). Rhythms are simple to allow focus on note reading

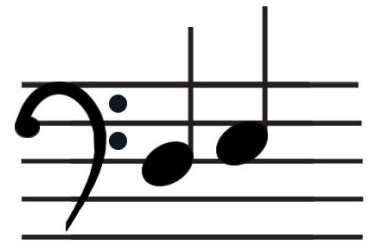
## Step 2:

- Introduce C, F, and G in bass clef using Quizlet [Reading 3.5](#)
- Quizlet [C, F, and G Permutations](#). Quiz in "Write" mode and play on piano as you go
- Read pg 44 to see how notes are used in two simple chord shapes
- Play through left hand parts of songs (pg 45-47) and say note names out loud (same as C, D, and E songs previously played, but with left hand part added)
- Play through Simple Songs 1 one hand at a time, then say note names out loud
- Play [Simple Songs 1](#) with hands together (all of these songs only use C, D, and E in right hand and C, F, and G in left hand)



## Step 3:

- Introduce D and E in left hand using Quizlet [Reading 6.5](#)
- Quizlet [D, E, and F Permutations](#)
- Combine C, D, and E with C, F, and G in drilling in Quizlet [Reading 3.75](#)
- Play left hand notes in songs, then say note names (pg 52-58)
- Put left hand part together with right hand part in songs (same as C, D, and E songs previously played, but with left hand part added)

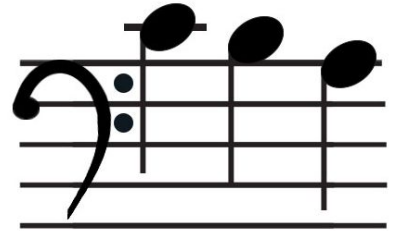


## Step 4:

- Introduce F and G in right hand using Quizlet [Reading 4](#)
- Quizlet [E, F, and G Permutations](#)
- Quizlet [Reading 7.5](#) to continue drilling past combinations of notes
- Read songs (pg 48, 49, 51)
- Read songs [Simple Songs 2](#)

## Step 5:

- Introduce C, B, and A in left hand (pg 18)
- Quizlet [Reading 2](#)
- Quizlet [C, B, and A Permutations](#). Quiz in "Write" mode, and play on piano as you go
- Quizlet [Reading 4.5](#) to combine C, D, and E with F and G in right hand
- Play songs and say note names (pg 19-26)
- Continue reading level 1 music (pg 58, 60)



## Step 6:

- Combine C, B, and A with C, D, and E (this is thumbs-sharing middle C position)
- Quizlet [Reading 3](#)
- Play songs and say note names (pg 27-35)
- Play songs to continue C position reading (pg 51, 60)
- Quizlet [Reading 7](#) & [Reading 4.5](#)

## Step 7:

- Combine other notes in middle C position
- Quizlet [Reading 5](#)
- Play songs and say note names (pg 36-43). You can also find lots of other music to play in this range. Look for five finger music in Middle C position (sometimes called "thumbs sharing middle C" position)
- Play [Simple Songs 3](#)

## Step 8:

- Introduce A, B, and C in treble clef
- Quizlet [Reading 5.5](#)
- Quizlet [A, B, and C permutations](#)
- Songs on A, B, and C (pg 59, 61)
- Play [Simple Songs 4](#)

## Step 9:

- Combine all notes learned, and drill in Quizlet Reading 8.

By [Suzan Stroud](#), songwriter/composer and teacher in Park Slope, Brooklyn. Suzan is a multi instrumentalist on Voice, Piano, Guitar, Bass and Drums and has a degree in songwriting from Berklee College of Music. She founded Treblemakers Music School (now [Park Slope Music School](#)) in 2009 and is the author of [Treblemakers Piano Method](#). Suzan combines 30 years of teaching piano full time with her hobby of reading about the brain to create music and curriculum designed to engage interest and maximize learning. She writes about music education in her blog "Suzan's Cents" which can be found on [suzanstroud.com](http://suzanstroud.com). Her original album "Reveal The Tapestry" can be found on [iTunes](#) and [Spotify](#).