



How to Choose the Right Piano or Keyboard

Choosing with the child in mind

Choosing the right piano or keyboard for a child depends on their age, experience level, available space, and how serious they are about learning. A good beginner instrument should be easy to use, comfortable to play, and capable of growing with them as their skills improve.

1. Consider the Number of Keys

A full-size piano has 88 keys, but younger beginners do not always need that many right away. A 61-key keyboard can be a practical starting point for children who are just exploring music, while an 88-key digital piano is usually the better long-term choice for students taking regular piano lessons.

61-Key Keyboard

A practical starting point for children who are just exploring music.

88-Key Digital Piano

Usually the better long-term choice for students taking regular piano lessons.

2. Look for Full-Size Keys

Whenever possible, choose a keyboard with full-size keys. This helps children develop proper hand positioning and makes it easier to transition to an acoustic piano or more advanced digital piano later.

3. Choose Touch-Sensitive or Weighted Keys

Touch-sensitive keys respond to how softly or firmly a child plays, helping them learn musical expression. Weighted keys provide resistance similar to an acoustic piano and are especially helpful for students who plan to study piano seriously.

A simple guideline

For casual beginners, touch-sensitive keys may be enough. For ongoing lessons, weighted keys are worth considering.

4. Digital Piano or Portable Keyboard?

Portable Keyboard

A portable keyboard is usually lighter, less expensive, and may include additional sounds, rhythms, and learning features. It can be a good choice for younger children or families who want to see whether the child enjoys playing.

Digital Piano

A digital piano generally provides a more realistic piano feel, better sound quality, and weighted keys. It is often the better choice for a child who is taking lessons or plans to continue playing for several years.

5. Check for Headphone Capability

A headphone jack may not sound exciting, but parents and grandparents may quickly discover its value. Headphones allow kids to practice without disturbing the rest of the household while also helping them concentrate on their playing.

6. Look for Useful Beginner Features

Some keyboards include helpful features such as:

• Built-in metronomes	• Lesson or learning modes
• Recording functions	• USB or Bluetooth connectivity
• Multiple instrument sounds	• Split or duet keyboard modes
• Sustain-pedal compatibility	

These extras can make learning more enjoyable, but they should not replace good key quality and sound.

7. Make Sure the Setup Is Comfortable

A proper keyboard stand and adjustable bench can make a big difference. Kids should be able to sit comfortably with their feet supported and their arms positioned naturally over the keyboard. Good posture makes playing easier and helps prevent bad habits.

LONGEVITY, FIT & MOTIVATION

8. Think About How Long the Instrument Will Last

It can be tempting to purchase the least expensive keyboard available, especially for a beginner. However, a slightly better instrument may keep a child interested longer and prevent the need to upgrade after only a short time.

When an upgrade may be worth it

If your grandchild is already taking lessons or showing a strong interest in music, investing in a quality 88-key digital piano with weighted keys may provide better long-term value.

9. Match the Instrument to the Child

Most importantly, choose an instrument that fits the child rather than simply buying the one with the most features. A beginner keyboard that inspires a grandchild to sit down and play every day is far more valuable than an expensive piano that rarely gets touched.

The goal

The goal is to give them an instrument that makes learning feel inviting, rewarding, and fun—and perhaps helps begin a love of music that lasts a lifetime.

Grandparent Quick Buying Check

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| ✓ Choose the number of keys with the child’s age, experience, space, and learning plans in mind. | ✓ Prefer full-size keys whenever possible. |
| ✓ Consider touch-sensitive keys for casual beginners and weighted keys for ongoing lessons. | ✓ Decide whether a portable keyboard or digital piano better fits the family’s needs. |
| ✓ Check for headphone capability, a comfortable stand and bench, and useful learning features. | ✓ Choose an instrument the child will actually want to sit down and play. |

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