


# Recorder Webinar Handout

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- Why play recorders? Poster 1 and Poster 2
-  **Grade 3 Recorder First Letter - Jan/2025 - sample**
- German vs. Baroque - Baroque uses a forked F
- Classroom management:
  - Play when you are asked - or play a pencil !
  - Have a resting position
- Organization - bins for each class; 2-3 students hand out each class; 1 student does LH stamp
  - Label cases on the first day then instruments
- Air - the word recorder means “gentle wind”
  - Find the visual that works for you - one-year old birthday candle, warm air, bubbles
  - Add gentle tonguing from the first sounds - “doo”
- First class:
  - Left hand reminder - stamp, bracelet, marker, etc.
  - The word recorder means “gentle wind” (repeat every class)
  - Visualize gentle wind with whatever method works for you; add “doo” tonguing - echo “doo” tonguing
  - Hand out instruments - cases zipped up behind
  - Focus on LH today - lots of time to correct RH later
    - Back to students - demonstrate LH thumb placement, then take a look and place LH index finger on top hole for B
    - Play one “Beautiful B” (Amazing A, Gentle G, Extraordinary E, etc)
    - Echo play B with tonguing
    - Introduce “Just B” (may not get to this depending on time):
      - Teacher plays whole song
      - Echo play 1-2 measures at a time
      - Echo play 3-4 measures at a time
      - Play whole song
      - Add accompaniment
    - Names on cases

- Every day reminders - Recorder Rap
  - The word recorder means “gentle wind”
  - Speak softly (and as little as possible).
  - play accompaniments as softly as possible
- Recorder Kit 1 has everything you need to get started - check out tutorial videos
- Squeaks - mean leaks! (or overblowing)!
  - Use “fingerprints” to cover the holes
  - Flat, firm fingers - give yourself “recorder warts”!
- RH placement - I start to give this more attention when we’re playing G as it helps give the LH ring finger more strength
  - Put a large stationery dot where the RH thumb will go
  - Thumb rests can be purchased (fit Aulos recorders)
- Help for smaller hands/fingers - paper reinforcements, corn cushions, 3D gel marker, put some tape over hole for temporary solution
- Note-reading skills - I focus on playing over writing
  - This is my focus for the two weeks while parents arrange to get recorders
  - LOTS of resources - online and physical
    - Floor staff games are always a hit!
    - Make your own mnemonic for E-G-B-D-F
    - Note Toss and Coconut Chaos are MP Online favourites!
- Adaptations - consult with learning specialist
  - Precorder
  - Nuvo recorder
  - Play on Orff or other instruments (online Orff instruments available in MP Online)
- Challenge activities:
  - Recorder Kit 2 - Stacy recommends:  
Old Brass Wagon; This Little Light of Mine; Chopsticks
  - Holiday Songs - great for Christmas concerts
  - Blues Cats and Jazz Cats - definitely next level rhythms
  - Alto recorders - “Tr Alto” uses soprano fingerings
  - Recorder Baseball
- Motivation - Recorder “Martial Arts”
  - Every class and year is different - determine what works for your unique situation

- Home practice - decide if this is really necessary, as you KNOW someone is going to forget!!! Have a bin of clean recorders available to borrow (used recorders go in a separate bin)
- Creating and composing - start small or start with whole class activity
  - Provide rhythm and students insert notes, or vice versa
  - Melody Composition Tool - in MP Online toolbox
- Clean recorders - top rack dishwasher or sink
- Clogged recorders - happens infrequently - fixed quickly (does NOT cause squeaks)

**Happy recorder playing!!**