

Instrument Care and Maintenance

All musical instruments must be treated with care and respect if they are to perform well. They are not toys and to not take care of them is like throwing money down the drain. They can be expensive and difficult to fix if there is a problem. Here are a few suggestions for keeping instruments in good shape. Students will be shown these techniques in class, but it may be helpful to review them at home to lessen the chance that repairs will be needed on your child's instrument.

1. Make sure the case is right side up before opening. Always open the case on the floor or another **LARGE, FLAT** surface.
2. Tighten your bow slightly before you play. Make sure the stick still "smiles."
3. **Loosen your bow every time when you are done playing.**
4. Use rosin on the bow hair as needed.
5. Use a cloth to wipe rosin off of the stick, the body of the instrument and the strings.
6. NEVER touch the bow hair.
7. NEVER adjust the pegs.
8. DO NOT adjust the screws until you have been taught how to do so properly.
9. Always put your instrument back in the case when you are finished practicing.
10. Keep your instrument away from little brothers and sisters. It is amazing what damage they can do to an instrument!