

Characteristics of approaches used in UK Piano Tutors - an outline

Middle C	Intervallic*	Multi-key	Eclectic	‘Natural’
Staff notation from start	playing experience established well before formal notation introduced	functional use of piano	a combination of the best points of previous three	focus on making music initially
thumbs on middle C hand position initially	‘off-staff’ initially	playing experience established first		familiar folk/children’s songs
Individual introduction of notes	focus on linking spatial awareness with directional movement of hands	five finger patterns from beginning, with different starting notes		black keys starting point
Use of mnemonics	use of landmark or guidepost notes	‘off-staff’ initially		note reading established later
Note values shown through metrical counting 1234	note values shown through metrical counting	phrase/shape recognition promoted		musicianship significant ingredient
Note values start with semibreve, then minim, crotchet	note values begin with crotchet	chords/harmony introduced quite early		
Bars and barlines introduced at start				

* the intervallic approach is often found within tutor books although rarely forms the basis of a complete book

Popular UK Piano Tutors categorised by approach to notation

Middle C	Multi-key	Eclectic	'Natural'
Piano Time - Pauline Hall	Hal Leonard Piano Series	Piano Adventures - Faber and Faber	Suzuki Piano School
Easiest Piano Course - John Thompson	Bastien's Piano Basics	The Alfred Basic Piano Library	European Piano Method - Fritz Emonts
Me and my piano - Waterman and Harewood			Piano Method - Lajos Papp
Chester's Piano Starters - Carol Barratt			
Piano Magic - Jane Sebba			
Piano World - Joanna MacGregor			
Piano Basics 1 - Pam Wedgwood (although introduction of notation is delayed for several pages)			
Hot Keys Piano - Sarah Watts & Rebecca Holt			
Get Set Piano - Karen Marshall & Heather Hammond (although far more emphasis on development of aural skills alongside learning to read notation)			