

First Piano Checklist

What 57 US piano teachers ask families to have at home, counted from their own studio policies (read October 2026). Your child's teacher has the final word.

A digital piano or keyboard

53 of the 57 studios accept one

53 = 46 of the 47 studios that don't require an acoustic, plus 7 of the 10 that do, for a first stage.

☐ Weighted or hammer-action keys	38 of 53	<div><div></div></div>
☐ 88 full-size keys 6 others say 88 keys aren't a must.	37 of 53	<div><div></div></div>
☐ A pedal (sustain or damper) One studio asks for all three pedals.	31 of 53	<div><div></div></div>
☐ Touch-sensitive keys (louder when you press harder)	17 of 53	<div><div></div></div>
☐ A bench at the right height	14 of 53	<div><div></div></div>
☐ A proper stand, not a table or desk	5 of 53	<div><div></div></div>
☐ A music rest for the books	4 of 53	<div><div></div></div>

An acoustic piano

counted across all 57 studios

☐ Kept in tune, usually once or twice a year	25 of 57	<div><div></div></div>
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10 of 57

studios require an acoustic piano, most of them after a first stage on a digital one.

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studios don't accept a digital piano or keyboard at all.

Before you buy

- ☐ Ask the teacher what they require, and how long a smaller keyboard is fine for.
- ☐ Check the keys at full size, and play soft and loud to feel the touch.

Notes from your teacher