



## Tips for Percussion Teachers

You may be starting out teaching percussion or you may be an old hand. Either way, here are some tips designed to help you get the most out of your teaching and students.

1. Goal Setting – Set your students goals of what you want them to achieve at the start of the year. It may learning that new marimba piece or mastering particular rudiments. Discuss the goals with your student and write them down. Having specific goals for your students will inspire them to work harder.
2. Set Expectations – At the start of the year, be sure you set realistic expectations with all your students and ensembles. It may be you want them to practise a certain amount each day or be responsible for packing up a particular instrument after percussion ensemble each week. Be specific and write them down so it's clear.
3. Performance – Plan for students to perform in a number of performances or exams each year. This gives them something to work towards and they will feel a great sense of achievement once completed.
4. Playing for Peers – A great way to help students build the mental strength required for public performances is to get them playing for fellow students regularly. Also ask the students listening to give constructive feedback.
5. Equipment – Make sure your students are organised and have everything they need for their studies in terms of books, sticks/mallets and instruments. A good idea is to write a list and send it home to parents. There are a number of free resources available at [nickparnell.com](http://nickparnell.com) that will be useful. Having a good quality mallet instrument to practise on is one of the biggest challenges. These can be easily hired at [nickparnell.com](http://nickparnell.com)