

Establishing pulse and rhythm, including reading rhythms, is essential before teaching reading of pitch. These skills are primarily addressed in group at the beginning stages, mostly without the instrument.

Basic skills

- differentiation of pulse and rhythm
 - ex. Bee, Bee, Bumble Bee
- execution of basic rhythms against pulse

Basic activities

- **Pulse development**
 - marching to music
 - name game, favorite fruit etc.
 - give instructions in rhythm (ex. While practicing Twinkle rhythms on shoulder or between repetitions of any type)
 - body percussion games (develop pulse and give early experience of meter)
- **Introduce note values**
 - march the pulse, clap and say basic note values
 - use Kodály syllables (see separate guide with outline of syllables)
- **Begin reading rhythms**
 - **on the board (march, clap, say)**
 - develops left to right tracking
 - designate a pointer and a human metronome (claves, rhythm sticks)
 - no bar lines at this time
 - use rhythms you create or consider using Magna Beat
 - **From the book**
 - rote learners can also read rhythms from their book when learning new pieces (parent can be the pointer)
 - march, clap, say
 - play on open strings
- **Add bar line organization (later in book I)**
 - Students are now ready to do “musical math” and play “add the bar lines” and “complete the measure” games

Transition to “traditional counting” (2nd half of Bk. II or beginning of Bk. III)

- Gives the student the important understanding of beat placement within the measure
- Provide a “traditional counting” guide if needed
- Use examples from their current pieces, create rhythms for them, use Flip a Rhythm

PULSE AND RHYTHM TRAINING IS A LIFE-LONG PURSUIT.

NEVER CLAP OR SAY RHYTHMS WITHOUT FIRST ESTABLISHING A **PULSE!**

Resources for Rhythm Training

- Magna Beat <https://www.magnabeat.biz>
- Fun w/ rhythm by Evelyn Avsharian available only through SHAR MUSIC
- Harmonized Rhythms for String Orchestra by Charles Forque, James Thornton published by Kjos
- Flip a Rhythm by Sheila Nelson published by Boosey and Hawkes
- Igor Hudadoff Rhythm a Day
- Sally O'Reilly String Rhythms
- Robert Starer Rhythmic Training