



I don't play the guitar! How do I know if a guitar plays well? You can always take along a trusted friend who plays and have him/her assess the instrument. Also, ask around and see what stores have a lot of satisfied customers. Ask the salesperson at these stores to play the guitar for you. Listen to how in tune the guitar plays up and down the neck. Check how high the strings are from the fret board and see how easy the strings are to press down. It is a very good sign if the store salesperson tells you that they set up their instruments before they leave the store and that they do all warranty repairs in house. If money is a huge factor, ask about used instruments at these stores. Usually these stores go to the trouble of setting up their used instruments as well.

Size DOES matter! Guitars come in all shapes and sizes. Have your child sized for the appropriate instrument. It is especially difficult for a child to learn on an instrument that is too large. There are guitars made for females, as well, with smaller necks and bouts for smaller hands and shorter arms. With a little information, a good salesperson can determine your child's needs.



What other items will I need? Picks are the most essential items. A carrying bag or case, a strap, an electronic tuner and a video or book to get started sure make it all easier. For an electric guitar, you will need an amp and cord and possibly headphones (Tip for parents: Many amps turn the sound to the speaker off when the headphones are plugged in. This means plenty of sound for your guitarist but quiet for you!)

Can my child learn from a book, or will he need lessons? There are some excellent books and videos available on the guitar and many people can learn from them. On the other hand, there are few good athletes who didn't have the benefit of a good coach and very few academics who didn't have the benefit of a good teacher. It is not essential that your child has lessons but it is certainly recommended. Even taking lessons for a month or two will help get your child off to a good start.

Bottom line, how much money are we talking? You can buy a very nice professionally set up acoustic guitar with all the accessories for around \$150. Add \$100 or so if you are buying an electric.



Got any more questions? If so, feel free to give us a call or drop by and see us. We have locations in Rock Hill and York, with teaching studios, beginner guitar packages, and all the accessories you'll ever need!

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