

## *How Do I Practice?-----some helpful hints*

1. Before beginning each song always check for four things:
  - \*Are there any sharps at the beginning?--where do I put my second finger(violin and viola)-which finger do I use 2 or 3(cello)
  - \*How many beats in the measure?--remember to count to yourself--use ta and ti-ti to help you keep a beat.
  - \*Do I start up bow or down bow?
  - \* What is the speed?
2. To help review say the note names of the piece before you start to play. Figure out the note by counting from the bottom of the staff.  
Violin: E G B D F F A C E G  
Viola: F A C E G G B D F A  
Cello: G B D F A A C E G B
3. If you are having trouble slurring the notes in the correct bow, practice first slowly without the slurs.
4. Always practice each song or exercise slowly first so that you can check yourself to make sure you are placing your fingers correctly and that you are playing the rhythms correctly. After you can play it slowly, then go faster and work up to the correct speed gradually.
5. DON'T practice the whole song straight through every time. Even though you don't like to practice the hard parts, practice **ONLY** the more difficult passages of the piece, 2- 5 times in a row, going slowly, and then faster. Then play the whole song to see if you can play the hard parts without getting stuck.
6. If you have a family member who can help you, ask them to check you on your counting and note naming, if possible have them play along with you.

\*\* PROJECT-- make your own flashcards to test yourself. Draw five lines on a card - index works well and draw a note that would be on one of the strings