



The Colour Awards - Strings

Each Award has its own criteria to work towards and this will hopefully help you to understand what you (or your child) needs to work on to achieve their next colour award.

RED AWARD

- ▶ Keep a pulse going whilst someone plays a tune – *clap a beat along with a tune, try tapping your foot or 'Marching' whilst listening or playing.*



- ▶ Hear the difference between short and long notes – *Listen carefully, are notes short or can you hear them for longer?*



- ▶ Hear the difference between two different strings – *try playing each of your strings and see if you can hear which are higher and lower.*



- ▶ Hold my instrument and use whatever equipment I need to help me – *Violins / Violas – rest your violin under your chin keeping the scroll up high and ensuring you have put shoulder rest or sponge on. Cellos – ensure you are sitting comfortably, put your spike up, the top of your cello body should be on your chest and the pegs roughly level with your ears.*



RED AWARD



- ▶ Hold my bow, know how to rosin and to loosen it - *maybe ask a parent to help but when tightening / Loosening bow, remember 'righty tighty, lefty loosy!!'* Rosin should be rubbed on to the hair of the string a little at a time all along the length of the bow hair.



- ▶ Play pizzicato (without the bow; plucking) and arco (with the bow)



- ▶ Start with a down or an up bow (see <https://artformsleeds.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Up-and-Down-Bow-red-violins.pdf> for definition of up and down bows and how to play.)

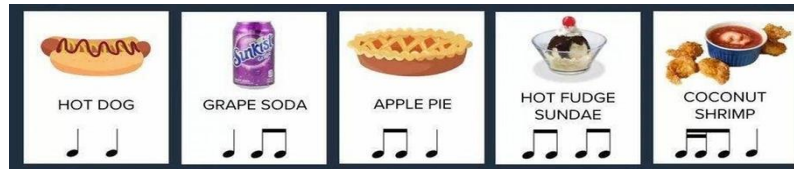
RED AWARD



- ▶ Change from one string to another - *Violins / viola - start on the highest string with elbow down and raise your elbow & arm as you cross to the next string - your elbow should draw an arc in the air as you move to the lower strings. Cello - This is the opposite way round, so elbow high as you play your top (A) string and lower your arm to roll over to the D string, and again G etc.*



- ▶ Make different sounds by bowing nearer or further away from my bridge & Choose a good place on the string for my bow to be in my pieces - *Your bow should be placed between the bridge and the fingerboard. Try playing nearer the bridge for a LOUDER sound and nearer the fingerboard for a QUIETER SOUND*



- ▶ Think of an interesting rhythm and choose a string to play it on try using words to help you create a rhythm; “I like eating pizza”, “playing my violin” etc

RED AWARD

- ▶ Read and play notes of different lengths - *look carefully at the different notes and remember to count.*



Count: 1 2 3 4 1 2 and 3 4 1 and 2 3 4

- ▶ Read and play at least two open string notes



- ▶ Perform a short tune for my friends in the group *once you are confident, playing for others is a great way to show what you can do.. It could be friends, class mates, family member, or even the family pet!*

