

Play: Sight Reading Arcade

Invite students to discover how sight reading can become more fun, creative, and social through games and collaborative music-making.

Multiplayer Mode!

- Explain that sight reading can feel like a multiplayer video game challenge where players must work together, keep moving forward, and stay on beat without pausing to fix mistakes.
- Invite students to unlock new sight reading skills by trying the following musical games:
 - *Split the Hands*: Have one person play the right hand while the other person plays the left hand. This way, students hear a complete piece together while learning to maintain a steady tempo and stay together.
 - *Duets*: Ask your teacher for easy sight reading duets to play with a friend, sibling, or parent. Encourage students to listen carefully for the other part and keep going without stopping.
 - *Cover the Music*: This game can even be done with a friend who doesn't read music. Set up music to sight read while a friend stands to the left holding a piece of paper or book. Count in, then begin playing. The friend slowly moves the paper across the page, covering the notes as the student plays. Students must keep looking ahead and continue without going back to fix mistakes. For a bonus challenge, have the friend cover the music slightly ahead of the playing (for example, two beats ahead).
 - *Pass the Music*: Students form a line at two pianos and perform a piece continuously, with each student responsible for only one measure. As soon as the first student finishes measure 1, the next student immediately takes over with measure 2 without breaking tempo. Continue through the entire piece as a team.

One-Player Mode

- Use any sight-reading cards you already have, download the *Piano Inspires Kids* [sight-reading examples](#), or create your own summer-themed cards to share with classmates and friends.
- Play each example with a steady beat and aim for accuracy. Try completing three cards a day as part of your summer piano challenge and watch your reading skills grow over the break.
- Add some friendly competition! See who can perform the most examples accurately while keeping a consistent tempo; and celebrate each improvement along the way.

Answer the Reader Poll: *Is sight reading part of your regular, daily practice?* Yes or No? Go to kids.pianoinspires.com/submit and let us know!

For further exploration of maintaining a steady tempo, “keeping going” without stopping for mistakes, and developing sight-reading fluency through varied reading experiences, read Le Binh Anh Nguyen’s article [“Improving Sight Reading at the Piano and the Potential of Technology in the Future”](#) in *Piano Magazine* (Spring 2025; Vol. 17, No. 1).

This resource is created for use with *Piano Inspires Kids*. Visit kids.pianoinspires.com for more information and activity ideas.