



In **Phase 2**, I give them the **Line Notes** on the staff. They must say them in **30 seconds** or less.

In **Phase 3**, they have **60 seconds** to say **Spaces and Line Notes mixed together**.

In **Phase 4**, they say the **Leger Line Notes** in **30 seconds**.

In **Phase 5**, they have **75 seconds** to say all the cards they have learned so far, **Spaces, Lines, and Leger Lines**.

**Phases 6-10** are a repeat of Phases 1-5, except they must **Play** the notes in the correct octave on the piano. I have found that separating the saying of the note from the playing of the note in the correct octave at first is easier than trying to do both things at the same time. However, for older children, this might not be necessary.

Below is a chart summarizing the phases.

PHASE	SAY or PLAY	CARDS	TIME
PHASE 1	SAY	Spaces	30 sec.
PHASE 2	SAY	Lines	30 sec.
PHASE 3	SAY	Spaces & Lines	60 sec.
PHASE 4	SAY	Leger Lines	30 sec.
PHASE 5	SAY	All	75 sec.
PHASE 6	PLAY	Spaces	30 sec.
PHASE 7	PLAY	Lines	30 sec.
PHASE 8	PLAY	Spaces & Lines	60 sec.
PHASE 9	PLAY	Leger Lines	30 sec.
PHASE 10	PLAY	All	75 sec.

It takes at least a year or more for students to really become automatic at their note names. And then, when students have become automatic, frequent review is still necessary. The goal is for students to see a note and know it immediately, just as they see the letter “A” and know it is an “A” immediately.

As you have seen throughout this seven part series on Reading, teaching students to read music notation takes an enormous amount of thought, understanding, reinforcement, and planning. We have thought out the process and presented what we believe are best practices in the teaching of reading notation in Piano Safari. Our goal is for all students to become confident readers, and for all teachers to trust the process and continue to work toward the goal of each student reading confidently.

### **June 5, 2018 Addition:**

I have been recently experimenting with assigning various smaller combinations of notes, adding on just a few notes at a time, to help students gain better instant recognition of all the notes. More information will be coming once I find the best order for assigning the notes. This new system will have students work through 10 phases of 4 (or 3) notes at a time, not moving to the next phase until the previous notes are instantly recognizable. The students will learn the notes in each phase initially using the Skips Alphabet and then work toward instant recognition. Stay tuned!