The Keyboard Express™
A beginner piano method
with pre-staff 'kids notes'
and keyboard guides
by John Keller

Express Stave Extra A
'Kids Notes' pre-staff reading for young pianists
“Express Stave” introduces special notes for black keys:

The teacher can slide a coin over the lines to help students learn to play these black keys. Using these “Express Stave” notes for the black keys helps the student learn keyboard geography, plus the concepts of up and down, lines and spaces, stepping and skipping.
We're playing on these monkey bars, monkey bars, monkey bars.

Playing on these monkey bars, having fun together.
Boogie Woogie

Boogie Woogie under link,
Next to link or moved away.

Boogie Woogie over link,
Play this Boogie every day.

Teacher's Accompaniment:

Teach by 'rote'.
Cling Tight

Play these extras, then cling tight.

Change to natural keys of white.

When there's no rest, don't let go.

Fingers neat and in a row.

Teacher's Accompaniment:

3 "extras" (big notes)

4 naturals (small notes)
Inside Threes, Outside Threes

Inside threes find first key A. Outside threes it’s B we play.

Inside threes find last key G. Where do you think F would be?
Play upwards all the way with your left hand.

A, B, C, D, E, F, G, Link ...

Start with 4 on Link.

Then play downwards all the way with your right hand.

Start with 4 on Link.
Double Naturals (♩)

One on each side of this link, Closer to this line we think.

Teacher's Accompaniment:

Double naturals inside threes, Find all double natural keys.

Find all of the double natural keys on this low side. Find all of the double natural keys on this high side.
Baby twins, in their bed, One fell out and bumped his head.

This is what the other said, Glad that wasn't me instead!
Drink Time

Doubles, twos and link lines, Bottom, middle, bottom, top.

Take a break at drink time. Head off to the bottle shop!

Teacher's Accompaniment:

\[ \text{Two} \]

\[ \text{Doubles} \]

\[ \text{Doubles} \]
Feel Their Way

Here's a game that children play. With eyes closed they feel their way.

And they sing with middle sound, Voices going up and down.

Find the keys by feel.

Repeat

Draw some small and big notes (like small and capital letters, o O).

centre
Double Keys Go Down to single, In between there is this pair.
Bottom keys go up to middle, And this other pair is there.
Play just one, From this pair, This note here or this note there.

With your thumb, One key choose, One from each pair touches twos.
Roly-Poly Rover

Roly-poly Rover, High hand rolling over,

Roly-poly Rover, Low roll over too.
Five baby bear cubs playing in the snow. Two in the middle and three below.

Five baby bear cubs swaying to and fro.

Five little polar bears in a row.
The Chimes

From the old tower, I hear them now,
Loud ring the bells, chiming the hour.
Dong, dong, dong.

Use the sustaining pedal.
Three kids on bikes. Who is fastest? I am fastest! Let's all have a bike race!
Point to notes, counting beats. Left hand lets you see ahead.

1. Play high hand
2. Play low hand
3. Play both hands together.
4. Point and count.

Right hand plays. Left hand holds. That is what the teacher said.
Now I think this frog wants to have their turn.

On this tram - po - line, there's one bird jumping.

People watching on, stand still, no bumping. They all think its fun so they'd like to learn.
Three Different Alphabets

Play three different alphabets. Frogs and birds and kids with pets. Birds above, Frogs below, Centre where those children go.
Inside Any Alphabet

Inside any alphabet,

Know where seven letters go.

Which three letters at the top?

Which three letters down below?
Three Line Guides

“Bird” clef

Three line guide, On high side, Where these birds Swoop and glide.

“Frog” clef

Three line stave, Just for frogs, Where they hop Over logs.
3 Three-Line Guides

Three - line guide,             On low side.

Centre guide,

This guide here,                Comes in third.               High and clear,               Like a bird.

Where kids hide.
In the centre, that is where,

Seven letters neatly fit.

In this basic alphabet,

Treble multiplies by three.

These notes higher up will be.

children play without a care.

Treble Alphabet

Bass Alphabet

Centre Alphabet

Three Alphabets
First Time, Second Time

First time, Second time, Two different endings. First time bar to repeat again.

Big notes, Little notes, Two different size notes. Second bar to complete: The End.
Slow and graceful pelicans fly.
Smoothly gliding peacefully by.