

# Frequently Asked Questions



1. What is that thing on top of the piano?

*This dome like electric appliance is an incubator for hatching eggs.*

2. What are we hatching?

*We are hatching chicken eggs which grow into hens that will lay eggs. These chickens are not being raised as meat birds and will not be eaten.*

3. How long will it take?

*It takes 21 days (3 weeks) for chicken eggs to incubate and hatch.*

4. Why is there water in the incubator?

*Eggs need proper temperature and humidity in order to develop into healthy chicks. The water in the base is there to provide the right amount of moisture or humidity inside the incubator. Egg shells are semi-permeable membranes. Even though they look solid, gases and fluids pass through the shell. Without enough humidity, the eggs could dry up and not hatch.*

5. How many chicks will we end up with?

*We hope to have about 70% of the eggs hatch. After the eggs hatch, not all of the chicks survive all the time. This is part of nature. We can expect 40% - 50% of the eggs to hatch into normal chicks if all of the eggs are fertile.*

6. What is the black box next to the incubator?

*That is an automatic egg turner. In nature, a mother bird rotates and turns her eggs several times a day. This automatic turner rotates the dome of the incubator which is attached to the plastic collar inside and the turning ring. This helps the embryo to develop fully by relieving the pressure on the nerves and blood vessels of the embryo. If they are not turned, the chicks may hatch with deformities or may be too weak to hatch out of the shell.*

*We will turn the automatic turner off two days before the hatch date.*