

CELLO CONCEPTS

Left Arm

Soft thumb and armpit
Curved fingers
Tunnel fingers
U-shaped thumb
EWP straight line (elbow, wrist, base of pinkie)
Arm/thumb balance
Arm takes you there
Fingers connect to chest, not thumb
Finger independence
Wristwatch faces ceiling up high
Play from back (W muscles)
Fingers before bow
Old finger, old string, old bow shift
New finger, new string, new bow
Neighbor finger relaxed
Thumb over two strings
Lift and drop
Hypotenuse rule

Shifting

Practice the shift, not just the notes.
Make the note before the shift beautiful.
It's not the note that's out of tune; it's the shift.

Right Arm

Soft thumb, armpit, and arm
Bow hold (mouse house)
U-shaped thumb
Touch, Sink, Go
Release right arm on upbows (nest)
Play from back (W muscles)
WSCP!
1/16 rule
Prepare arm for string change
Bow angle (X or T bow)
Move from fingers
Move from wrist
Move from elbow
Move from shoulder
Bow always in charge

Cello essentials

Quality rosin (e.g. Hill, Bernadel)
Strap or rock stop
Cloth
Suzuki CD/mp3s
Metronome
Tuner
Music, Folder, Pencil

Ear Training

Tune from the bottom
Tune 3rds low

Body

Tall back
Long neck
Shoulders down/back
Everything in circles
Forte bow, piano fingers
Piano bow, forte fingers
Body moves with bow
Body moves against bow
Play from the ground
Play from your core

Cello Care

Treat cello like baby
Loosen bow after each use (or bow warps)
Don't touch the hair
Always walk around cello, not over
Learn to adjust strap with cello in hand
Change strings/rehair bow every 1-2 years
Leave cello in car at times you'd leave a child in the car. (so... not in the trunk)
When the sound post falls inside the cello, slightly loosen tension on strings so cello doesn't implode.