Two common challenges faced by beginning piano students are note learning and identifying a note's location on the piano (geography). Until note reading fluency is achieved, this can lead to some frustrating practice sessions at home.

It is important to develop note fluency at an early stage. The process of learning new music will become easier. Sight-reading and sight-playing will be less stressful. Students will be able to read through music more quickly and play more expressively.

The following list is a compilation of some of the sites available on the Internet to help with practicing and improving note reading.

http://www.musictheory.net/
Under the "Trainer" section, click on "Note Trainer". Users can specify whether to be drilled on reading in the treble clef, bass clef, tenor clef, and alto clef. Piano students should select treble clef and bass clef. Hints are available and Note Trainer keeps score. Users can also do ear training drills, watch flash presentations of various topics of music theory and print off blank manuscript paper. Note that the Note Trainer may be too advanced to young beginners as it tests students' reading of the entire Grand Staff plus ledger lines.

http://www.funbrain.com/notes/index.html (All Games - The Piano Player)
Students drill their note reading and keyboard geography in this online game. Four levels of play are available: Beginner (one octave with labels), intermediate (one octave, no labels), expert (four octaves with lables), and virtuoso (four octaves, no lables).

http://www.musicards.net/
Eight sets of online flashcards are available on this site: Note Names, Key Signatures, Intervals, Triads, Piano Note Names, Reading Piano Notes, Guitar Note Names, and Reading Guitar Notes. Reading Piano Notes is an instrument location/geography drill. Students try to identify the note. To get the correct answer, scroll over the card. Several "decks" are available - no ledger lines, staff and ledger lines, naturals and accidentals.

http://www.pedaplus.com/
Online flash games are available on the Games page. Users can practice note reading on all four clefs. The games are timed and points are deducted for each incorrect answer. Students can also practice their interval (the distance between two notes) reading.

http://www.emusictheory.com/
Five note naming games are available on this site: Note Names, Paced Note Names, C-Clef Note Names, Piano Keys and Guitar Frets. The first three are straight note identification exercises while the last two are instrument geography drills.

Each of the above websites contain a variety of drills and tools to help piano students improve their note reading. There are other sites out there. Explore the many sites available and choose what sites work best for you and your piano practice needs.