

Assistant Teaching at Expressions Dance Academy

At Expressions Dance Academy we offer dancers ages 9 and up to assist in the classroom of an age-appropriate class. We do not have a student teacher “program” per se, but read on to see what we expect from you if your dancer chooses to be an assistant teacher.



EXPRESSIONS DANCE
ACADEMY
GRAND RAPIDS, MI

Why be an assistant teacher? This is not a paid gig, so why even do it? Because it teaches the assistant teacher valuable skills: being a leader, taking initiative, and it even helps them understand their own corrections for dancing when they are able to see others receive corrections. Plus, many times it counts as service hours for schools.

What do I need to do to qualify? You must be 9 years of age, and need to be able to come each week to the same class that you are assisting with. Arrive about 5 minutes before the class starts. It is ok if you have to miss a class here and there, but it is very appreciated if you let the teacher know ahead of time if you can't be there. If you don't know your teacher's cell phone number, ask them the first day of class and tell them it is so they can let you know if they can't make it one week.

What do I need to wear? Wear anything that you normally would do a dance class of your own. If in doubt, throw on an Expressions Dance Academy tshirt and leggings!

What do I do once I get there? Depending on the age and style of the class you are helping with, you may be expected to do different things. You are always allowed to stand up near the teacher when stretching or doing center floor exercises. The teacher may ask you to take a dancer “across the floor” doing the step, or just to sit with the dancers while they wait their turn. The teacher should be clear with their instructions to you on what they would like you to do. If you do not know, please ask. Things you should not do: be on your phone, sitting down unless required, eating, working on your own dances, or doing anything else that would be distracting to the class.

What will help me excel at being an assistant teacher? Learn your students' names. Compliment them when they do something well. If one of them is getting too “rowdy” (like possibly getting in another student's personal space) nicely mention to that dancer to give some room. You can always follow what the teacher is doing. For instance if you are doing side digs across the floor and you hear the teacher mention to another dancer “make sure you are keeping your hands on your hips!” you know that is a safe correction to make to the dancer you might be taking across the floor.

Am I invited to the teacher's Christmas Party? Absolutely you are! We will let you know when/where it is as it gets closer. EDA will pay for your dinner and you will receive a gift. It is a chance to hang out with your other teacher assistant friends and the staff!