

Recreational Dance FAQ's

What does my dancer need to wear to class?

While we don't have a strict dress code, make sure your dancer arrives in something that is comfortable and easy to move around in. Leotards, tights, shorts, and tank tops work best. They allow your child to really feel like a dancer and get them excited about dance! We ask that no denim/jeans be worn as they will restrict movement. Make sure that hair is pulled up out of the face. Below are some examples of items, but again they do not have to be purchased or in these exact colors or styles, just some examples for parents who are new to the dance world:



Do I need to have shoes the first week?

We would never restrict your child from going into class if they didn't have shoes - but please be aware that in order for your dancer to get the best out of class and feel a part of the group, they will need to have the proper shoes. Any color of shoes is technically fine, so if you find a cheap used pair for sale you can feel free to purchase even if it isn't the recommended color. But here are the recommended styles:

Tap class dancers should have black tap shoes, Ballet class dancers should have pink ballet slippers, Hip Hop classes dancers should be wearing tennis shoes/athletic sneakers, Lyrical/Contemporary class dancers should have tan canvas style turners, and Jazz, Pom/Cheer class dancers should have tan slip on jazz shoes. Acro dancers should plan on dancing in bare feet. Below are some examples of what these shoes may look like (remember, it does not have to be an exact match).

Tap Shoes: Ballet Slippers: Hip Hop Sneakers Lyrical Turners Jazz,Pom/Cheer Shoe



Where can I purchase these items listed above?

All of these items can be purchased at Kicks Dancewear at 28th and Breton, or online at www.dancewearsolutions.com Sometimes they can be found at places like Target, Once Upon a Child, Amazon, etc.

Do I need to arrive early?

If your child has already enrolled, you should plan on arriving just about 5 or so minutes before class starts so that your child can get to class on time and feel behind from the beginning. If you haven't enrolled yet, plan on showing up about 15 minutes before the desired class time to fill out the registration forms. Remember, you can save time by doing it online at www.expressionsdancegr.com/registration.

***Also, please make sure your child has gone to the bathroom before class starts. Usually one child needed to go to the bathroom starts a whole train of every other child saying they need to go to the bathroom - when really they might not need to go, they just see their classmates going. This takes a lot of time out of the classroom. Conversely, if your dancer has an issue (for instance, a bladder infection or is a frequent urinator) please tell the teacher so that they are aware.

Do parents need to stay in the lobby?

Parents are not required to stay in the lobby during their child's class. However, if your dancer is new to the studio, or on the younger side, we recommend staying in the lobby for at least the first couple weeks.

Can I sit in class and watch my child?

Unfortunately, no. As a general rule, parents are not allowed in the classroom once class has begun. There are a few circumstances where we would allow the parent to be present in the classroom, but generally this is not allowed. We have windows at the studio that parents can look through and watch. If you sit in with your child the first week because your child is nervous, your child will continue to expect that you are there every week. And then other children who maybe didn't think they needed their parents will wonder why their parents aren't in the room, and refuse to dance until their parents come in, and then it just starts a whole downward spiral. Trust us, we have seen it all.

My child cried during their first class / sat out / didn't participate.....should we drop the class?

Every child reacts differently to their first dance class. Some of them catch on and jump right in, but some of them are a little more hesitant. For many, this is their first time in a group setting away from parents, they haven't had a lot of social interaction if they aren't old enough to be in school yet. So it can be a little overwhelming at first. Some children react by crying, some just stand there as they try and make sense of what is going on around them. We recommend bringing your child for at least 3-4 classes. As teachers of young children we keep our classes pretty routine. While we incorporate different things, we usually follow the same pattern of events. Therefore, it seems very confusing at first to young children, but after a couple of weeks they begin to learn what to expect - and it all becomes a lot less overwhelming. If your child still continues to cry or refuses to participate after 3-4 weeks, then maybe they are a little too young for class. You can still continue to try bringing them to class, or you can maybe wait a couple months and try the drop-in classes.

How/when do I pay tuition?

Tuition is due by the 15th of each month. Tuition is the same amount each month September – December for the Fall/Winter Semester (no payment is due in January) and February – May for the Winter/Spring Semester (no payment is due in June) regardless of how many weeks there are in the month. You can pay at the desk or using the online portal. Go to www.expressionsdancegr.com for more information on the portal. You can also sign up for auto payment on either the 1st or the 15th of the month in the Parent Portal.

Do I have to purchase a costume or have my dancer be in the Recital? When is my costume payment due?

Your dancer does not have to perform in the Showcase/Recital to take class. However, the costume is included in the price of tuition. If your dancer isn't planning on doing the Showcase / Recital, please let your teacher know. However, tuition will still be the same.

If my child misses class, do I have to pay?

If your child is doing a drop in style class then they pay as they come each time. However for all other classes, even if your child misses, tuition is still owed. You are paying for your enrollment in the class, not just for the physical class itself. The same goes for "taking a month off dance". If you choose to drop the class for the month, or any length of time, there is a \$100 per dancer per class re-enrollment fee. And it is not guaranteed that your child will be allowed back in the same class.

However, if your dancer misses class due to illness or something else, if there is a comparable class your dancer may attend that class. This isn't always available, but definitely encouraged. You can ask the receptionist to help you find a comparable class.

Our terms state that we do not do makeup classes or give refunds in the event of inclement weather cancellations. While this is our official policy, please know that if class has to be cancelled for any reason, we do our best to make it up (even if it is weather related). We would let you know when the makeup date would be.

I have to talk to the teacher about something, when is the best time to do that?

Please keep in mind that our teachers have very little time between classes. They let one class out and let another one in, possibly taking a quick bathroom break if they are able. If you have a general question about the studio or the class, please ask the receptionist first. If it is definitely something you need to talk to the teacher about (like concerning your child before class) make sure you tell them briefly what the issue is before class starts.

Can I get more showcase / recital information?

Recital and Showcase information will be sent out closer to the dates.

What if I want to drop a class?

While we are always sad to see dancers go, we understand things come up and needs change. If you are looking to drop a class, you can submit a request through the Parent Portal, or you can email expressions_dnc@yahoo.com. You will still need to pay for any outstanding balance up until that point.

Will we automatically be enrolled for both semesters if I sign up for the Fall/Winter semester?

No, you/your dancer will not automatically be signed up for the Winter/Spring semester, you will have re-enroll them in the same class, or they can try a different one as well! The only exception to this is the Adult Classes, their information will be copied over to the following semester.

I'm confused about the regular classes versus the drop ins. Can you explain?

We are continuously trying to add more variety in to our studio, so I understand all our different types can be confusing. We have recreational style classes that will have a performance at the end of each semester – these classes are enrolled by the semester/session (billed monthly). These are typically the combo classes, hip hop, tap, lyrical, jazz, pom, etc. We also have recreational style classes that are more training and technical based, and they will not have any sort of performance at the end of the semester. These classes are available to be enrolled by the semester/session, but they can also be done as drop ins (where you pay each time you/your dancer comes). These are typically classes like the strength training, pilates, rhythm foundations, leaps and turns, etc. Lastly we have a couple classes that are a bit of a mixture of both styles, they are recreational classes that focus a lot on technique, but they do have a performance, however only at the end of the Winter/Spring Semester (so not the end of the Fall/Winter semester). These are mostly the ballet technical classes and Adult classes. Please make sure to look closely at the schedule and it will let you know whether the class you are enrolling has an end of semester performance or not.

Do I need to pre-enroll ahead of time for the Drop In Classes?

Yes, it is important that you pre-enroll ahead of time at least by 2 hours before the class time. This helps our teachers know how many people to be prepared for in the class. If it is less than 2 hours before the drop in class starts, you can text 616-261-8005 to make sure the class is still happening before arriving.