

DDDS Pre-Dance & Tiny Tappers

with

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Description: Pre-dance is a dance program designed for children ages three through six. It is an introduction to the world of dance, which utilizes children's love of movement to enhance their physical development and musicality. Students learn basic tap & ballet skills along with creative movement to help develop their coordination.

Attire: Leotards, tights, dance skirts, dance shorts, dance pants, are all appropriate for Pre-Dance classes. Students may choose any color or style. Hair should be secured away from face. Tap shoes (basic style with either a single tie or strap) & ballet slippers are required for class (practice shoes can be any color). For the recital, tan colored tap shoes will be required.

Class Descriptions: (All classes are 45 minutes)

Pre-Dance I: For 3-5 year old new dancers. Students will learn to work together as a group in a structured classroom setting. Basic tap & ballet moves will be taught to music. Coordination movements such as marching, skipping, galloping, clapping to the beat will also be taught. Students will perform a Tap Routine in the Recital at the end of the year.

Pre-Dance II: For 4-5 year old dancers. The basic structure of the class is the same as Pre-Dance I, but everything is done with a little more attention to detail. Students will increase their knowledge of basic tap steps, and will start to learn dance terminology. Better classroom behavior will be expected. Students will perform a Tap Routine in the Recital at the end of the year.

Tiny Tappers: For 5-6 year old dancers. The goal of this class is to reinforce the basic tap steps, while adding additional tap steps. Students will learn dance terminology, and be able to identify various steps by name. Students will be encouraged to have better timing (stay with the music) & know the routine well. Students will perform a Tap Routine in the Recital at the end of the year.

If you ever have any questions, concerns, etc...please schedule an appointment with your child's teacher or studio director or feel free to call & or email us.

.....Welcome to your Dance Class.....**We're looking forward to a great year!!**.....

DDDS Studio Rules:

- Dancers are not allowed to have any food, gum, candy or drinks during class.
- No running inside the studio – the floors can be slippery, and we don't want anyone to get hurt.
- No hanging on the ballet barre– dancers should only use the barre after specific instruction from their teacher.
- Do not touch the mirrors – please keep hands, feet, etc. off the mirrors.

Additional Tips for our young Dance Students:

- It is helpful for each dancer to have their own dance bag. This should contain only the shoes required for class. (Please, no toys, makeup, food, drink, etc.)
- Please put your child's name on the inside or bottom of each shoe, dance bag, etc. Ballet slippers with long ties should be knotted and cut, so they do not come untied during class. If tap shoes have elastic, dancers will not need the original ties.
- Dancers should enter the class wearing their ballet slippers and carrying their dance bag (with tap shoes inside). Midway through the class, the teachers will assist them with changing into their tap shoes. No parents in the dance room.
- Please try to have your child use the restroom before class. If a bathroom break is necessary, the teacher will bring your child to you, and you may take them to the restroom.

Holiday music:

We do use holiday themed music during the fall/winter months. Please inform your teacher if this will make your child uncomfortable & we can adjust.

THE DANCE OF INDEPENDENCE

New places and people can be frightening at first. Until your child becomes comfortable in class, he/she may take the first few classes to watch or participate minimally. Some children may take several weeks to settle in and fully engage.

Though your child may feel safer with you in the room, remember that other children may be shy in your presence. It is best for you to wait outside the dance room while class is in session.

IF YOUR CHILD IS FEELING UNCERTAIN OR REFUSES TO PARTICIPATE, HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP.

- Come a few minutes early to look quietly around the studio and transition into the dance room. Do not come too early that your child becomes tired before class start.
- No need to sneak away, even when there are tears. Your positive enthusiasm and confident goodbye are reassuring.
- Set a time for hugs, smiles and kisses before and after class.
- Encourage your child to teach **YOU** after taking class.

AS IMPORTANT AS YOU ARE TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING OF YOUR DANCER, AS HE/SHE GROWS YOUR CHILD ALSO BENEFITS FROM THIS TIME APART FROM YOU.

Your child gains confidence in their ability to make choices, learn new things, form ideas all on their own, and then proudly share them.

As you witness these developments, enjoy! Watch as they learn to appreciate dancing with and without you.

And value this dance of independence.