

# Etiquette for Dance Parents

A helpful guide created by [Starting Point Resources](http://StartingPointResources.com/)

## Be supportive of your child as a dancer.

Instead of expecting perfection, look for progress in your dancer. Don't compare them to anyone else – each student will advance in their own time. Help them stay focused, ensure they have the supplies and nutrition they need, and give them lots of encouragement.

## Be supportive of your child's teacher.

Our dance teachers are skilled dancers, but they are also highly trained in anatomy, kinesiology, classroom management, child development, special needs, and curriculum development. They spend hours of their personal time preparing customized lessons for each class and they want the very best for each of their students. They are true educators!

## Understand the benefits of dance.

The benefits of dance are endless! Science has proven that participating in the performing arts always puts children on a path for academic success. In addition, think about all the benefits of sports and you'll see the same from dance – resilience, teamwork, self-confidence, patience, hard work, and of course, physical strength, endurance, and flexibility.

## Follow us on social media & check your emails.

We will do our very best to communicate with you. Sometimes we are able to send out information weeks in advance, while other information has to be relayed at the last minute. Stay connected with us so you don't miss out!

## Discuss commitment, gratitude, & hard work with your children.

These are required elements in the dance world and they will be taught and expected in each class. Your child will be a much better equipped student if these elements are also discussed and instilled at home.

## Pay on time and remember what you're paying for.

You're not just paying for someone to twirl around with your child for an hour every week. You're paying for *expertise* - someone to use their *years* of education and experience to teach your child how to create art, how to understand and care for their body, and how to be successful. You're not paying for a class – you're paying for a lifetime.

## Respect the policies.

Every policy we implement has been put in place for a reason. We always work hard to ensure our customers, dancers, and staff get everything they need – and sometimes that means having seemingly odd rules and regulations. If you're ever unsure about a policy, just ask! Also, please don't expect special privileges or treatment – the rules apply to everyone! And if they don't, again, there's a reason.

## Respect the facility.

We want our studio/school to be a magical place full of fun memories for everyone, but it is still a place of business. Please don't leave trash behind or do anything to damage the property. Keep your gossip and loud talking at home. Also, ensure that your other children and family members are equally as respectful of our space and our other patrons.

## Don't stay in the class or hover at the windows.

We always want you to feel comfortable with us and we know how nice it is to be able to watch your children in their classes. But, having a constant parent presence is quite a distraction for our students – especially for those shy children who aren't quite ready to be watched by strangers yet. Even if Grandma is visiting from out of town, a quick peek won't hurt, but we ask that she doesn't stand at the window for 20 minutes. Don't worry – we'll give you plenty of opportunities to see your dancer in action. But those moments have to be planned in advance.

## Be honest about your child's challenges.

Many children have a challenge. Some have several. Whether it's anxiety, autism, a hearing impairment, weak muscles, dyslexia, asthma, sensory needs, or trouble regulating their emotions, each challenge that you're aware of should be communicated to your child's teacher. Even in the shortest classes, your child's needs will present themselves. Being open and honest with your child's teacher allows them to prepare and customize their instruction to best teach your child.

## Address concerns with grace & maturity.

We're human. We make mistakes and we have responsibilities outside of the studio. If you ever have a question or concern, we hope that you will take the time to have a mature conversation with us. Yelling, berating, or being rude is unacceptable behavior and it will not get you "your way." On the other hand, your grace is always appreciated and we love each and every opportunity we get to professionally communicate with our clients.

## Get your child to class on time & consistently.

Not only does it significantly slow your child's progress, it also complicates things for our teachers when student attendance isn't consistent. When a teacher plans a lesson for 14 students and only 6 show up, everything must change at the last minute. In addition, lessons have to be repeated when absent students return. We certainly don't expect 100% perfect attendance from anyone, but we do expect sincere dedication.

## Enjoy the process!

What a remarkable privilege it is to provide your child with dance lessons! Their lives will forever be changed through the arts and you get to share those moments with them. Take the time to enjoy every part of this experience with them!