

CREATIVE MOVEMENT, PRE-DANCE, & HIPPIITY-HOP PARENT'S GUIDE

SPENCER YMCA STUDIO OF DANCE



Program Goals:

- ◆ Team work
- ◆ Large motor skills
- ◆ Basic arm and footwork
- ◆ Develop an interest in dance
- ◆ Listen to and follow directions
- ◆ Promote dancer's listening skills and hearing rhythmic patterns in music
- ◆ Exercise and Fun!

Welcome

Welcome parents and dancers to beginner dance classes. We hope you will enjoy watching your dancer develop and grow through out the 2018-2019 dance season. Please join us in creating a dance environment in which your dancer will be comfortable and confident.

Watching your dancer:

You are welcome to stay the first day, but we prefer parents to wait outside the dance studio once the season gets going. We only get a small amount of time each week with your dancer and we need to utilize every minute!

Please tell your child in advance that you will be able to watch the first day and after that you will be sitting right outside the room. We have found that having a "No Distraction Environment" helps the young dancers focus. The instructor will have you come in to watch the progress made periodically and you can always watch class on the television provided in the commons area.

If your child is having separation anxiety, discuss this with the instructor and together find a solution. However, if your child is crying because they are so frightened to join the class, stay with them and try to make them comfortable. If you can't calm them down, please take them out of the room. Sometimes children who are not frightened get scared when other kids are crying... that is why it is best to remove them and reassure them.

Our goal is to have your child enjoy every class. Every child reacts differently to dance class at this age. Some jump right in, while others take a while to get warmed up.

What to do if your child is NOT having fun?

Some kids are just not ready. They may not be able to stand still that long or they may be so frightened that they can't let go enough to allow themselves to learn. Whatever the case, know that when each child starts class, it is basically a trial situation. If the instructor does not feel your child is ready, she will let you know that it would be better for your child to wait a year and try again. If this should occur, make every effort not to have your child feel like they have failed.



Behavior: The hard thing about teaching little ones is that if one acts up...they all act up. For this reason, if after a few weeks your child is not adapting, the instructor and parents will make a decision for them to withdraw and re-start at a later date. Or perhaps a different instructor or class would be a better fit for your youngster? Make sure to take your young child to the bathroom right before class, (this is often used as an excuse), if one goes to the bathroom, they all think they need to go. If your dancer is NOT potty trained, we require the parents to remain in the building for the entire class time.

Routines: Over the years parents have requested write-up of the routines. It is our policy not to distribute choreography. Many times instructors vary their routine from the write-up and it would seem like foreign language to someone who is not a dance teacher. You are welcome to video tape your dancer at the end of practice at this age. We don't want them to feel pressured in any way! It is all about having fun at this age.

Performances: Creative Movement, Pre-Dance, and Hippity-Hop classes are typically the hit of the show. This is because we never know what will happen. Some dancers love to perform, while others don't like the crowd much. Don't push your dancer. If they opt to "sit this one out", bring them back to perform the next time.

Questions: If you ever have any questions regarding your dancer's class, please talk to their instructor or call the YMCA. For more information or questions, please contact the YMCA Dance Director, Erin Elliott at 712-262-3782 or email eelliott@spencerymca.org.