

Pre-class meltdowns are not uncommon for preschool students!

What if my preschooler doesn't dance at the first class?

This is COMPLETELY NORMAL! Each child is unique and responds to new environments in his/her own way. There are new people, loud shoes and music and it can be intimidating to some. We don't want to 'force' a child to dance, but instead like to allow them to observe if they wish, as we continue to encourage them throughout class to join in the fun. Keep in mind, it may take several weeks for a child to feel at ease enough to dance, but be assured that they are learning while observing!

Over the years I have found that allowing a child to ease into dancing and participating is much more successful than 'forcing' him/her to participate right away. We all want each dancer to enjoy and look forward to coming to the studio, so we want each child to leave happy so they want to come back! Parents, please be aware of that from the beginning and don't get discouraged if the first couple classes don't go as you have envisioned. (This also applies to performances!)

What if my preschooler cries and doesn't want to enter the studio?

This is COMPLETELY NORMAL! We will encourage your child to come in with us, usually giving them a fun prop (such as a scarf) as they enter. We like to have music playing and start with a dance or activity right away. If a child is still upset after a few minutes, we will ask if they would like to sit and observe. If the child is still upset, we will find a parent or older sibling to come in with them. We don't encourage that but if it helps for the first couple classes, then great! Usually after a few weeks, the child is eased into entering without the parent/sibling and all is well.

Other things I've learned....

*If it's the beginning of a year, bring your child to onsite registration to meet the instructors, see the studio, try on/purchase shoes. Getting acquainted beforehand is always good.

*Try to be a few minutes early for class. Coming in late when class has started doesn't work well for some children. Try to be early enough to have shoes on, visit the restroom, etc. before class time.

*If your child would like to wear a dance costume, tutu, or other special dance outfit to class, we encourage it! Sometimes something as simple as that makes all the difference in the world.



