



DanceWorks

What You Need to Know Before Your Child's First Dance Class

Class Name: _____ **Teacher:** _____

Class Day: _____ **Time:** _____

Location: **SIGS Upstairs Room** **SIGS Downstairs Room** **Floyds Knobs**

Should my child arrive early on the first day of class?

Yes! It is very beneficial to the child to arrive 10 minutes early on the first day of class. This allows them time to get adjusted to the environment and meet their instructor. Also, if registration has not been completed or the child still needs dance shoes, this can all be taken care of before the dance class begins.

What should my child wear?

Girls **ages 2-3** need to wear any color leotard, tights or socks, and their appropriate dance shoes. They may also wear skirts or legwarmers if they would like! Hair should be pulled away from their face.

Girls **ages 5 and up** need to wear a primarily black leotard, tights or socks, and their appropriate dance shoes. They may also wear skirts or legwarmers if they would like! Hair should be pulled away from their face.

Boys need to wear dance pants or shorts, a close fitting t-shirt, and their appropriate dance shoes.

Where can I buy dance apparel?

DanceWorks keeps a selection of dance leotards, skirts, tights, and dance bags in stock for your convenience. If we do not have your child's size we will place an order and you will receive the apparel within one week.

Dance leotards, tights, skirts, legwarmers, etc. can also be found at a variety of locations. Target, Meijer, and Walmart all generally carry some dance apparel. For a wider selection, we recommend Kinney Dancewear in Louisville, Kentucky.

What types of shoes will my child need?

Students need tap shoes and ballet shoes for their dance class. Older students enrolled in jazz class will need jazz shoes as well. For your convenience, we carry shoes in stock that you may purchase from DanceWorks.

Can I buy my child's shoes somewhere else?

Yes and no. You may also purchase your dance shoes from Kinney Dancewear in Louisville, Kentucky. However, you must purchase **Bloch Mary-Jane style buckle tap shoes in the color black. ALL OTHER TAP SHOES DAMAGE OUR FLOORING AND ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.** Students with the incorrect tap shoes will not be allowed to wear the shoes in class. If your child's shoe size is smaller than size 9.0, you must purchase tap shoes from DanceWorks. Kinney Dancewear does not carry the correct shoe in sizes smaller than 9.0. Furthermore, Target, Meijer, and Walmart market house slippers as "ballet shoes", but they are unsafe for children to dance in and unacceptable at DanceWorks.

What should my child carry their shoes in?

We highly recommend that the dancers carry their shoes in a dance bag to class. Any small bag will work! Please be sure to write your child's name in the **INSIDE** of their dance shoes to prevent mix-ups when changing shoes. **DO NOT** write the child's name on the outside, as it will be visible during studio performances such as the Holiday Extravaganza and recital.

What should I expect on the first day of class?

When it is time for class to begin the instructor will invite the students into the dance room. Parents are welcome to stay but must remain outside of the dance room. Some students will run into class with enthusiasm, have the time of their lives, and not want to leave when it's over! However, other children may be a little more hesitant. We want to stress to parents that this is *completely normal*. Whether your child is immediately engaged in class or requires a couple more classes to adjust, he/she will greatly benefit from the experience. Adjusting to new environments and experiences is a crucial part of child development, and our instructors are skilled at easing this transition. Please keep an open mind about your child's performance during the first few weeks of class, and reward the small accomplishments as well as the big ones!

Your child will quickly enjoy the full benefits of taking dance class at DanceWorks, and you will begin to see more than just the dance skills they are gaining. Some of these include:

- Accomplishment • Concentration • Coordination • Creativity
- Discipline • Friendship • Gracefulness • Leadership
- Memory Skills • Motivation • Perseverance • Poise
- Respect • Responsibility • Self Confidence

We are so excited to provide the best possible dance education for your child. If you ever have any questions or concerns, feel free to speak with an office staff member. Welcome to the DanceWorks family!