



## **DANCE TOTS**

**(ages 2yrs 6mo – 3yrs 11mo)**

Dear Parents,

We are very excited to welcome your little one to our Dance Tots program! I know that, as a parent, you have a vision for how the first day will go. With my many years of experience, I am writing to give you some idea of how it might go and how it might not.

Please arrive early on the first day in order to get them acclimated to their new teacher and environment. Sometimes, our Dance Tots will cling to mom/dad as they walk in the studio because they are unaware of their environment. Separation anxiety is one of the most common issues on the first day. You may overcome this by explaining to your child that you will be waiting for them right outside the classroom and that you won't leave.

Our Dance Tots class is designed as a teacher/child class. Our policy is that all parents need to be in the hallway area while class is in session. You will be able to observe the class on the TV monitors mounted in the dance studio hallways. Please make sure your little one uses the restroom before class, but remain close so that we may find you in case we need your help accompanying your child to the restroom during class.

We've noticed that when a 2-3 year old begins to cry, the others typically follow suit. We will make every attempt to calm your child and get them to join the class, but if necessary, we will bring your child out to meet you, so you may calm them down more effectively outside.

Many times, our Dance Tots come into the room right away and never look back. Other times, children aren't ready for a teacher/child class. As parents, we won't know until we try. Please remember that it may take a few weeks in order for the child to warm up to the idea, even if they LOVE to dance.

Our goal on the first day is to get every child into the class without mom/dad and without crying. If we've done that, we've succeeded! Please don't be alarmed if your child just stands in her circle and stares at the teacher jumping up and down. They are simply observing their environment. They will dance when they are ready!

We hope you all have a positive experience at our studio. Please don't hesitate to call us if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you!

*Judy Benton*

Dance Sun Country Department Leader

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