



# TEENY TINY KIX PARENT GUIDE



Our hope is for your child's first dance experience to be a successful one.

## GOALS:

- \* To promote dancer's listening skills and hearing rhythmic patterns.
- \* Large motor skills.
- \* Team work (lining up, hooking on, moving down, etc.)
- \* Listen to & follow directions.
- \* Basic arm and footwork.
- \* Helping children develop an interest in dance.
- \* Exercise and FUN!!

## Helpful Hints:

- We have found that having a "No Distraction Environment" where parents wait outside the room helps to eliminate distractions for the dancers. You are welcome to stay the first day, but prefer parents to wait outside once the class gets going. We only get a small amount of time each week with your dancer and we need to utilize every minute.

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 the kids learn and pay attention much better without the parent in the room. The Director will have you come in to watch the progress made that day, during the last 5 minutes of class. If your child is having separation anxiety, discuss this with the Director and together find a solution.

On this same note...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's why it is best to remove them and reassure them that way.

- Our goal is to have your child enjoy every class. Every child reacts differently to a 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 director 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 it 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 Director and parents will make a decision for them to drop and re-start at a later date.

- 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.

- ROUTINES. Over the years parents have requested write-up of the routines. It is our policy not to distribute choreography. Many time Directors vary their routine from the write-up and it would seem like foreign language to someone who is not a dancer. You are welcome to video tape your dancer at the end of the practice so that they have something to follow at home. Please know that we don't require at home practice at this age. We don't want them to feel pressured in any way.

- PERFORMANCES. Tiny Kix are typically the hit of the show. This is because we never know what will happen. Some Tiny dancers love to perform, some don't like the crowd as much. Don't push your dancer. If they opt to "sit this one out", bring them back to perform the next time.

If you ever have any questions regarding your dancers class, please call your Director or our Home Office at 218-829-7107. We hope you have a great year.