

PARENTS: What to Expect the first day!

The first day of class can be a little scary for our little ones. It is helpful to know what to expect for you and your child.



At first, dancers may be scared to come into their classroom. Separation anxiety is one of the most common issues on the first day (or few days) of class. Our goal on the first day, is to get every child into the classroom without their parent, and without crying. If we have done that, we have succeeded. Usually a brand new dancer will cling to their parent as they walk in the studio door. Everything to them is new. Because of this, we recommend that dancers arrive early on the first day, in order to allow them time to grow comfortable with the new environment. We will work with you and your child to achieve success in bringing happy dancers into the classroom without their parent.

As far as what your dancer accomplishes the first day (or few days of class), in terms of technique and vocabulary, it will be minimal. Please don't be alarmed if your child just stands in her hula hoop and stares at the teacher jumping up and down. They are simply observing their environment. They will dance when they are ready!!! They will be up on stage performing before the year is out!

Parents, please keep in mind that is perfectly normal for a very young dancer to have a bout of separation anxiety. If your child cries, we ask that you remove them from class, and hold them lovingly at our viewing window to watch the rest. It is important that the parent offer only love and support to a child in this state. With encouragement and support, your child will decide, on their own, to join the class within three to four lessons.



Also, it is important for parents to be aware that our classes are geared toward student and teacher (not student, parent & teacher). We don't allow parents into the classrooms for many reasons. First of all, it has been proven to "harm" more than "help." Many times our little ones will not be willing to try things, or participate in class, if they have a parent present. For this reason, starting on the first day, we don't allow parents into the classroom. This sets the tone for the students immediately, teaching them that they must come in on their own. However, this does not mean that we don't want parents involved. Quite the contrary! HCCD has large viewing windows for our parents to look through to see the class. These are special "one-way" viewing windows that allow the parents to see their dancers, without the dancer seeing their parent. Parents can comfort their reluctant dancer by letting them know that they will not be leaving, but will be right outside the room watching through the window. Parents of our younger dancers are also needed to help with shoe changes, bathroom emergencies, moral support, etc. We want you to remember these special moments with your dancer, take pictures and capture the moments! We know how precious they are. This is a special time for both you and your child.