

FAQ's

The Classes:

Why are your Combo classes Ballet and Tap?

Combo Dance is Ballet and Tap (and trampoline!)- We chose these styles of dance and skills because they help with motor skill development, cognitive development, engage the core and activate the vestibular system.

-**Tap** specifically helps with fine motor movements like foot articulation. It also gives auditory feedback which helps students better understand and grasp concepts like loud and quiet, fast and slow, big and small, finding and keeping rhythm... etc. With its auditory component it is able to cover all 3 learning styles, Visual, Auditory, and Kinesthetic.

- **Ballet** helps to develop important muscle groups and improve alignment and joint tracking. These help motor development and promote safety and injury prevention from growing bodies into adulthood. Ballet also covers all the basic building blocks of dance as a whole, allowing students to succeed in later classes in all different styles of dance as well as other sports.

My child is new to dance but is too old for a level 1 class, what do I do?

Each child and situation are a little different. For specific information about what would be best for your child please email our dance director at: encoregymdance@gmail.com

There are several options available:

- Older students typically learn much faster than younger students. An older student can sign up for a beginning level class with the knowledge that they will be moved up through the levels at an accelerated pace. At each stage they will learn the skills and technique they need to progress to the next level (typically 1 – 3 months) before moving on to the next level. This rapid learning slows to a normal rate when they reach the intermediate level which is usually closer to age level.

- Students can do private lessons with an instructor, during a time when the studio is free and open, consistently once a week until they reach an intermediate level. At this time they will be integrated into the appropriate class.

- During the summer, or if the child is homeschooled, there are beginning level classes in the morning during the week. These school-aged classes are geared to move at an accelerated pace and cover both levels one and two.

*If students have some previous experience a trial class can be used as an assessment so that the student can be placed in the best level for them. If that level is with younger students, the above options are also available.

Does your studio offer Contemporary?

Yes, contemporary is included in our upper level ballet curriculum beginning at level 4. Students at this level and above will learn the basic fundamentals of this branch of ballet, in addition to their classical training. In the Student Showcase these levels will perform two pieces: a classical, and a contemporary routine.

Does your studio offer Acro-dance?

Yes, as part of our Jazz program, students begin learning basic tumbling and then progress towards the more advanced acro-dance tumbling and flexibility skills.

When will my ballet student be ready for pointe shoes?

At Encore we strive to ensure that our students progress safely with a view of body longevity. Our primary objective is always to promote the safety of our students. Pointe is reserved for students of specific age, level, and training schedule, taking into consideration the individual student's strength, growth plates, and dexterity. For an in-depth explanation please read this article from Dance Spirit magazine: "Am I ready for pointe?"

<https://www.dancespirit.com/am-i-ready-for-pointe-2326191492.html>

The Performances:

What is a Student Showcase performance?

Our dancers will be performing a specially choreographed routine designed to showcase what the dancer is learning in their class. Each dancer will have the chance to perform technical steps and skills learned in class and show what they do best without the constraints of a story or theme.

What is a Dance Production?

Our dance production is our major performance of the year with a full story, set, costumes, and characters. This is similar to going to see a major ballet (like The Nutcracker), but it includes all of the dance styles we offer while performing a well-known children's story.

What is the time commitment for my child to participate in the Student Showcase/ Production?

The time commitment for the Student Showcase is very minimal. Students commit to attend their regular classes consistently to learn their routines, a Thursday afternoon tech rehearsal at the theatre, and their performance day/s.

The time commitment for the Production depends on the level and age of the student. The shows are cast so that younger students are called for shorter periods of time than older students, taking attention spans into account. All students are expected to have consistent attendance in their regular classes. There will be a place on the commitment forms for students to let us know their previously scheduled conflicts so that they can be cast into the group that best fits their schedule. Each rehearsal your student is called for is extremely important as we will be learning new things, setting formations, and working with our group leaders.

- Students in beginning levels are split into three casts. Each cast is committed to one group rehearsal, one dress rehearsal, the tech rehearsal, and one performance. Their rehearsal times are shorter to allow for younger students' attention spans and needs. (It is especially important for those who are split-cast to be at all rehearsals they are called for as they only have 2 rehearsals before the tech run at the theatre.)
- Students in intermediate level classes are considered static cast and commit to three group rehearsals, three dress rehearsals, the tech rehearsal, and all three performances. However, their parts are limited to one scene or act and the time lengths they are called for are similar to those in the beginning level groups. (Students in this level may not miss more than 2 of the scheduled group/dress rehearsals).
- Students in the advanced level classes are cast in featured, soloist, or leading roles. They commit to three group rehearsals, three dress rehearsals, the tech rehearsal, and all three performances. Depending on casting, they are likely to have longer rehearsal times, and may even have a few additional small rehearsals to learn solos, duets, or other particularly difficult parts of the show. These additional rehearsals are scheduled with their availability in mind, and permission of the parent/guardian. (Students in this level cannot miss more than 2 of the scheduled group/dress rehearsals).

What if my child isn't doing the show? Should they drop the class?

If your child is unable to participate in the performance, there is no need to drop! The entire class will be learning the choreography as part of the regular curriculum regardless of commitment status. Learning choreography is an important part of progressing as a dancer and helps with memorization of skills as well as memorization in other parts of life, like school! Encore teachers are kind and make an effort to be sure all students in the classes feel included. Dropping the class and returning after the show will slow your student's progress and growth in their technique and skills they are learning in their class.

How does your studio handle costumes for each show?

Costumes for the Student Showcase are very minimal. Our dancers perform in their class dress code, possibly adding a matching accessory, or utilizing a color theme for the class. These are items that you already own, or items that they would be able to wear to their class. Any additional accessories will be rented from the studio, and are included with the participation fee.

The Production has full costumes. Part of your production fee includes costume rental. All costumes will be rented from Encore. In order to keep your rental costume in good condition, all female performers are required to wear flesh-tone camisole leotards under their costumes. All male performers are required to wear dance shorts and a white fitted under-tank.

All performers will be required to provide their own tights and shoes.