

Studio Sharise



Creative & Performing Arts Academy

DANCE SING ACT

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What to Expect that First Day:
For Parents of Preschoolers
(ages 3-6)



A young child's first arts class is a very exciting day! It's an important step in their educational and social development, likely being their first classroom experience and perhaps even being one of the first times they are separated from their parents. Some preschool students may cry or be apprehensive about entering the class – know that this is okay and perfectly normal. Young preschoolers don't know how to say "I'm scared to try this" – crying is how they instinctively know how to express themselves.

While some preschoolers do cry, others can surprise you and walk right in – every child is different. If your child does cry, resist, or doesn't participate right away in class activities - NO WORRIES! Remember that their reaction is perfectly normal since this whole classroom, dancing, acting, singing, and teacher thing is totally new for them, and some children just take a little longer to adjust to a classroom environment. Typically within 4-6 weeks, every child is participating and having a blast in their classes.

At Studio Sharise Creative & Performing Arts Academy, we believe in a process we've coined as "gentle transition". What that means is, we don't want to take a crying child straight into the room and have them upset for the whole class. We allow parents to enter with their little one and allow them to adjust to the class together. Then, our goal is to get the parent out of the room once the child is comfortable. If your child is anxious about you leaving, you can sit with them, but it is best to concentrate on the class – keep reinforcing how much fun all of the activities look. Eventually, your little one will want the same attention and start participating in the class.

In the end, the first day of class is an amazing first step into the world of the arts for your child. Your child will meet this opportunity with excitement, inquisitiveness, anxiety, and amazement. It is a completely new experience for them and will be an adorable, funny, and educational experience for all - teachers and parents, too.

Each of our Preschool Program faculty members have expansive experience in teaching this age and are happy to talk with you and answer any questions. You should never hesitate to approach us or send us an email to ask about your child's progress.

Everyone at Studio Sharise Creative & Performing Arts Academy is here to help you and your child have the best experience possible!

Here are Some other Helpful Hints to Make Your Preschooler more Comfortable

- **Come Prepared for Classes:** Make sure your child is dressed appropriately for class and has all supplies/materials needed.
- **Arrive Early:** We recommend getting to the school about 10-15 minutes early, so your child can begin to get comfortable in the new environment and meet their teacher. This also gives you enough time to park, fill out or update your registration form, take your child to the bathroom, get supplies together and/or change clothes and get shoes on.
- **Use the Bathroom Before Class:** Please help your child get in the habit of using the bathroom before class - to try to go potty and wash hands. Your child's teacher will remind students of this too, but your support will really help.
- **Communicate Expectations:** When your child is ready to participate in class without you, please let your child know where you will be during class (in the lobby watching them on TV or away from the school). We find our Littles do better knowing where their parents will be. We do ask that if you do leave the premises during classes, please leave another adult responsible while you are away.
- **Label Everything:** Please write your child's name or initials on all supplies and materials. For dancers, please write initials on shoes on the outside bottom of each ballet slipper. If your dancer is in a combo class, please write their name on all sets of shoes. Permanent markers work well. We will have them available in the lobby before class. Just ask us.
- **No Toys or Distracting Jewelry in Class:** Unless it has been pre-arranged by the teacher.
- **Help Your Child Focus:** By keeping siblings away from the door/out of the studio room.
- **Finally, share your own excitement:** Let them see how fun you think this new experience will be and how excited you are to see them have lots of lots of fun!

And always, always remember we are here for you! ~ Miss Sharise



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