



Full Year Kids Programs Policy Handbook

The following is a list of all studio policies for the 2021-2022 dance season at J'Adore Dance. To ensure a successful experience for all of our families please read through the Policy Handbook carefully. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask!

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*** PLEASE PRINT SECTION 3 AND KEEP THIS PAGE OF KEY DATES FOR YOUR REFERENCE***

1. Philosophy

Our programs are based on a conceptual dance education approach where creativity, imagination, and expression are combined with developmentally appropriate movement, music, and ballet, jazz, tap and hip hop technique to create a class that is fun for all!

We believe that dance is a community driven art form. We believe children learn best when provided with problem solving opportunities in an inclusive, supportive, non-competitive environment. Children will be active participants in each class where they will be free to explore their own creativity and expression while increasing their dance skills and technical vocabulary.

Dance is more than a series of steps. Our programs use a holistic approach that provides our young dancers with a brain compatible learning environment where we strive to ensure success for all! Our conceptual approach to dance education ensures our students move with purpose on the dance floor and through life.

Our child-learning philosophy follows the following 3 tenants:

1. Each child is a unique individual and will be respected as such.
2. Children learn best in a supportive, non-competitive environment.
3. Children learn through participation, observation and interaction.

2. Conceptual dance education

People often have the incorrect assumption that creative dance is dancing like a tree, or a flower, in strange pantomime to new age music. That it is without structure. That it is with limited value. However, masterfully crafted, conceptually based creative dance is the ideal way to introduce children to dance and can easily continue to be incorporated into any style of dance and technique.

Dance concepts are based on the work of Rudolf Laban. Laban Movement Analysis is a way of creating, describing, and understanding any kind of human movement. The four main categories include:

- Body
- Effort
- Shape
- Space

Any movement can be analyzed and changed using these concepts.

Dance is about communication. Stories, emotions, and ideas have historically been human beings' motivation to move to the music and create meaning. When the focus of dance becomes purely mastering a series of steps and technique, the meaning is gone. Dance without concepts is movement without meaning, without purpose.

Children who learn dance steps and technique through an understanding of concepts become master communicators and masters of their own body. They can use concepts to convey sadness or joy, and understand how they are different. They have a thesaurus of body language that expands their movement repertoire.

Children who dance through concepts aren't using rote memory but accessing higher brain functioning through application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. They are smarter dancers.

At J'Adore Dance, we want the children we teach to take the skills they learn and apply them outside the studio. We want those skills to be relevant, purposeful, and meaningful in their day-to-day lives and help them shape a bright future. Regardless of what paths and interests they choose to pursue, we want what they have learned at the studio to be valuable.

A conceptual dance approach also fosters language development. Rather than just learning the names of steps, children learn and use descriptive vocabulary as they analyze and add meaning to their movement. They practice expressive, detailed communication. Speaking and writing skills improve. Children become masters at communication.

Conceptual dance is process driven. It challenges and inspires children to explore, inquire, and problem solve. It helps them communicate and create meaning in the world around them. It challenges the stereotypes that effective dancers must fit a certain body type. It increases self-esteem and confidence. It is holistic, beautiful, and child focused. It takes dance from a once a week activity in the studio to a way of joyfully traveling through life.

3. Dance Season

The 2021 - 2022 dance season will run the following dates:

Monday classes: September 13 - May 16

No classes: Oct 11, Dec 20, Dec 27, Feb 21, Mar 28, April 18

Costume Fitting Days: February 28-March 6

Parent Sharing: Class Snippets will be shared to your BAND

Tuesday classes: September 14- May 10

No classes: Dec 14, Dec 21, Dec 28, Mar 22, Mar 29

Costume Fitting Days: February 28-March 6

Parent Sharing: Class Snippets will be shared to your BAND

Wednesday classes: September 15- May 11

No classes: Dec 15, Dec 22, Dec 29, Mar 23, Mar 30

Costume Fitting Days: February 28-March 6

Parent Sharing: Class Snippets will be shared to your BAND

Thursday classes: September 16- May 12

No classes: Nov 11, Dec 16, Dec 23, Dec 30, Mar 24, Mar 31

Costume Fitting Days: February 28-March 6

Parent Sharing: Class Snippets will be shared to your BAND

Friday classes: September 10- May 13

No classes: Dec 17, Dec 24, Dec 31, Mar 25, Apr 1, Apr 15

Costume Fitting Days: February 28-March 6

Parent Sharing: Class Snippets will be shared to your BAND

Saturday classes: September 11- May 14

No classes: Oct 9, Dec 18, Dec 25, Jan 1, Feb 19, Mar 26,

Apr 2, Apr 16

Costume Fitting Days: February 28-March 6

Parent Sharing: Class Snippets will be shared to your BAND

Sunday classes: September 12- May 15

No classes: Oct 10, Dec 19, Dec 26, Jan 2, Feb 20, Mar 27, Apr 3, Apr 17

Costume Fitting Days: February 28-March 6

Parent Sharing: Class Snippets will be shared to your BAND

4. Class Attire* NEW for COVID** Proper dance attire is important for keeping your dancer safe, allow instructors to ensure alignment is correct, and allows for freedom of movement. *****All dancers must require footwear- no bare feet will be allowed until restrictions are relaxed.*****

JBallet Combo classes:

Girls: Leotard (any color), pink convertible tights, pink ballet slipper

Boys: Black sweat pants or shorts, white tee shirt, black dance slippers

Hair should be pulled back off the face.

JHop classes:

Girls/Boys: Athletic Pants, leggings, or dance pants, tee shirt or tank top (no crop tops please), and a pair of non-marking indoor athletics shoes. Due to new health regulations, there will be no bare feet allowed in the studio.

Long hair should be worn tied back so as not to impede your dancer's vision.

JTap classes:

Leggings & athletic top, dance leotard (any color) & dance tights, Athletic pants or shorts & fitted t-shirt (any color).

Tap Shoes are required and Hair should be pulled back off the face.

We ask that you please change into your dance attire at home as our bathrooms no cross over will be allowed during sanitization.

J'Adore Dance has dance slippers, tap shoes, tights, and a small variety of leotards available to purchase in studio. Dance Wear Packages are available to purchase through J'Adore Dance. They will include a short sleeved bodysuit (6 colour choices available), tights, and ballet shoes for \$75 or tap shoes for \$85 +GST depending on the style of tap shoe (Level 6 and 7 require an intermediate level tap shoe), which is a 20–25% savings if you were to buy one at a retail store. Dance wear will be onsite for payment and pickup that day. Dance Wear Fitting Days August 21-22nd.

We also recommend the following dancewear stores:

On Stage

7618 Gateway Blvd NW Edmonton AB T6E 4Z8
(780) 432-7998

All 4 Dance

4115 106 St Edmonton, AB T6J 2S3
(780) 489-4286

Please be sure your child has dancewear for the first day of classes.

5. Studio Etiquette

We ask that all families work with us to ensure that the studio is an ideal learning environment for all our dancers. **The following are our studio etiquette expectations:**

- **Please remove all outdoor footwear in the lobby and place it on the rack by the door prior to entering the dance studio.** Please do not store outdoor footwear in the drawers below the benches these will be for your child's outerwear.
- **Water bottles are permitted in the studio.** Due to covid-19 no food items are permitted in the lobby.
- **Please arrive to class on time and ready to dance.** Because of the strict AHS protocols we currently need to adhere to we ask that you arrive no more than 5-10 minutes prior to the start time in your dance attire. This will ensure you have enough time to take off outerwear and change into dance shoes, and confirm your screening intake form has been complete. *Students will not be permitted into the lobby areas prior to that time as we will be in the middle of our sanitation protocol. If you are late you will have to go the main lobby desk to check in and have your screening checklist verified. A desk staff will then permit your child into class.*
- **We will have sharing days throughout the year so that you are able to watch what your child is working on in class.** For all other class days, you may want to consider grabbing a coffee from Sunterra or Honor Child's café, browsing in some of our neighboring shops, or visiting one of the nearby playgrounds after you drop your child off for their class. Please be ready for pick up 5 minutes before the end of class. We will be dismissing children promptly so that we can begin sanitizing before the next class arrives.
- **Children learn differently and in their own time.** We understand it can be difficult to see your child not always participating, but please remember some children are visual learners and need to spend more time watching the instructor and other dancers before they feel comfortable participating. After class, praise your child for their effort in class and ask them to share with you their favorite part of class. Creating a positive association with class is the best way to ensure their success!
- **All J'Adore Dance instructors and staff will be treated with dignity and respect at all times.** J'Adore Dance reserves the right to dismiss anyone thought to be disrespectful or not following studio policies.

- **Please communicate any concerns with your instructor outside of class times.** We strive to maintain open, positive communications with our families and hope you will approach us with any concerns. Our instructors' focus needs to be on the dancers and their lessons. In between classes they need to prepare for the following class. Please contact us to set up a time to discuss your concerns.

6. Cancellations

Cancellations received prior to August 1st of the current dance year will be charged a \$50 plus GST cancellation fee.

Cancellations received prior to September 16th of the current dance year will be charged the \$200 + GST administration/Cancellation fee.

Cancellations received prior to October 31st of the current dance year will be refunded one half of the total annual class fees (not including the \$200 + GST administration/Cancellation fee).

Cancellations received between November 1 and November 30th of the current dance year will receive studio credit for one half of the class cost (not including the \$200 + GST administration/Cancellation fee).

No refunds or credits will be issued for ANY cancellations received after November 30th of the current dance year. If you are unsure if your child is ready for a full year dance commitment, please consider one of our sessional preschool or kids programs.

Class switches will not be considered after the second week of full year programming. Class switches are subject to availability, teacher and administrative approval.

Please note that classes may switch from in-studio to online formats at any point in a session as mandated by Alberta Health Services. By registering in a program at J'Adore Dance you are agreeing to participating in both in-studio and online class delivery. Refunds/Credit will not be given for changes to programming delivery.

7. Sharing Weeks* DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS**

Until restrictions are lifted there will be no in person sharing days. Parent shares will happen via videos posted in your BAND. Sharing weeks provide you the opportunity to join your dancer in their class to observe the progress they are making and share in their joy of dance! Dancers will demonstrate various aspects of their learning in class and we encourage you to participate along with your dancer at home as your share in their learning. This helps positively reinforce your child's commitment to dance.

8. Photos and Video

Parents are not permitted to take photos with the exception of in-person sharings, costume fittings, and dress rehearsal days. Teachers and Faculty do take photos and videos in class to use as teaching and practice tools. These practice videos are password protected links that will be posted in your private BANDS for your child's use at home. We will have First Day of Dance posters up for your child to pose on their first class.

9. Missed Classes

Performance Program classes do not offer make up classes; however we understand that sometimes dancers may need to miss a class due to illness or other commitments. As such, we are running as a hybrid program this year and dancers may join via ZOOM when they are not able to come into the studio. We have also included an extra class in each semester, that is in addition to the classes included in your fees. If you do not miss any classes, these are bonus classes and our gift to you!

10. Communications

At J'Adore Dance we strive to maintain open, positive communication with all our dance families. If you have questions, comments, concerns, or feedback we are open to your thoughts and opinions.

This year we will be using the BAND app as our primary form of communication. The last year has taught us that Covid-19 restrictions and protocols change rapidly and this will be the fastest way for both parents and faculty to communicate with each other. We ask that you please accept the BAND invite for your child's class and turn on notifications so that you do not miss important information regarding your child's program.

For the 2021-2022 dance year please contact J'Adore Dance Artistic Director

Chantel Sampson regarding all issues related dance programming. Chantel can be reached at 780-701-4942 or Chantel@jadoredance.com.

Please contact J'Adore Dance front desk regarding all issues related to fee payments, absences, etc. The front desk can be reached at 780-701-4942 or info@jadoredance.com

11. Newsletters

Each month our dance families will receive a newsletter. The newsletters will also provide reminders for important dates and announcements related to the Full Year Performance programs.

A copy of the newsletter will be emailed to you and posted in your BAND each month and a copy will also be available in PDF form on jadoredance.ca under the Parent Document Tab. **Please read the newsletter carefully as to not miss any important announcements.**

12. Office Hours

Our office hours will be as follows for the 2021-2022 dance season:

Mondays- Thursday: 9am-9pm

Friday 9am-7pm

Saturday and Sunday 9am-5pm

Please note: Sometimes office hours change. Please call the studio to ensure the office will be open when you arrive. The studio is closed for all long weekends, and may have reduced hours during periods of no classes.

13. Recitals

Recitals dates for the 2021/22 season will be announced as soon as possible. The Myer Horowitz Theatre will be closed the 2021/22 season while they undergo a major renovation. We are currently in communication with other theatres to book recital dates for Spring 2022.

Our recital provides our dancers the chance to experience dance as a performance art and showcase their growth over the dance season.

Please read your monthly newsletter for all announcements regarding recitals.

All Recital Information and notices are kept in the Parent Documents section on the website.