



Full Year Kids Programs Policy Handbook

The following is a list of all studio policies for the 2023-2024 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!

- 1. Philosophy**
- 2. Conceptual Dance Education**
- 3. Dance Season***
- 4. Class Attire**
- 5. Studio Etiquette**
- 6. Cancellations**
- 7. Sharing Weeks**
- 8. Photos/Video**
- 9. Missed Classes**
- 10. Communications**
- 11. Newsletters**
- 12. Office Hours**
- 13. Recitals**

*** 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 2023 - 2024 dance season will run the following dates:

Recital, Photos and Dress Rehearsal Dates TBA

Monday classes: September 11 - May 13

No classes: Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec 25, Jan 1, Feb 19, Mar 25, April 1

Costume Fitting Days: March 4-11

Parent Sharing: In Class Dates Oct. 2, Dec 18 Ongoing Snippets will be shared to your BAND

Tuesday classes: September 12- May 14

No classes: Nov 14, Dec 19, Dec 26, Jan 2, Mar 19, Mar 26

Costume Fitting Days: March 4-11

Parent Sharing: In Class Dates Oct. 3, Dec 12- Ongoing Snippets will be shared to your BAND

Wednesday classes: September 13- May 15

No classes: Nov 8, Dec 20, Dec 27, Jan 3, Mar 20, Mar 27

Costume Fitting Days: March 4-11

Parent Sharing: In Class Dates Oct 4,. Dec 13 Ongoing Snippets will be shared to your BAND

Thursday classes: September 14- May 16

No classes: Nov 9, Dec 21, Dec 28, Jan 4, Mar 21, Mar 28

Costume Fitting Days: March 4-11

Parent Sharing: In Class Dates Oct 5, Dec 14 Ongoing Snippets will be shared to your BAND

Friday classes: September 15- May 10

No classes: Nov 10, Dec 22, Dec 29, Jan 5, Mar 22, Mar 29

Costume Fitting Days: March 4-11

Parent Sharing: In Class Dates Oct 6, Dec 15 Ongoing Snippets will be shared to your BAND

Saturday classes: September 9- May 11

No classes: Oct 7, Nov 11, Dec 23, Dec 30, Feb 17, Mar 23, Mar 30

Costume Fitting Days: March 4-11

Parent Sharing: In Class Dates Sept 30, Dec 16 Ongoing Snippets will be shared to your BAND

Sunday classes: September 11- May 12

No classes: Oct 8, Nov 12, Dec 24, Dec 31, Feb 18, Mar 24, Mar 31

Costume Fitting Days: March 4-11

Parent Sharing: In Class Dates Oct 1, Dec 17 Ongoing Snippets will be shared to your BAND

4. Class Attire - Proper dance attire is important for keeping your dancer safe, allowing instructors to ensure alignment is correct, and for freedom of movement. Dancers must change out of school and play clothes into proper dance attire before coming to class. Hair must be pulled back and off the face in a bun or pony tail.

Dance wear Packages, Individual dancewear items and shoes are available for purchase at the studio.

JBallet Dance Wear Package – Includes short-sleeved bodysuit (6 colour choices available), tights, and ballet shoes: \$82+GST

JTap Dance Wear Package (JTap 1-5): Includes short-sleeved bodysuit (6 colour choices available), tights, and tap shoes: \$92+GST

JTap Dance Wear Package (JTap 6-Youth): Includes short-sleeved bodysuit (6 colour choices available), tights, and tap shoes: \$155+GST

For our families who have a dancer doing both tap and ballet you can get the Supreme Dance Wear package which includes the bodysuit, tights and both ballet and Intro level tap shoes for \$125 +GST.

If you wish to purchase shoes separately we have ballet shoes available for \$35 (plus GST) and tap shoes available for \$48.00 (plus GST). For our more advanced dancers (JTap 6 and up) Premium full soled tap shoes are \$120.00+GST

We will also have a selection of skirts, tutus, dance bags and dance dresses on sale.

If you do not wish to purchase your dancewear from J'Adore please note J'Adore Tights (colours to be determined) will be required for recital.

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

While Covid brought many drastic changes to our programs it also taught us some valuable lessons. One positive thing we noticed was that our quiet lobby created not only a calm, welcoming environment for our dancers to come in, change their shoes and get ready for class in but it also allowed our dancers to focus more during class without the distraction of loud lobby noise. Our lobby began as a drop and go lobby simply because of the size reduction which was a result of our Covid Renovations and when each dancer brings in a parent (and any younger siblings that might be in tow), our very tiny space becomes chaotic and overcrowded. As noise level increases and people are stepping all over each other with no room to move, anxiety levels rise, and the calm, welcoming environment we have worked hard to create disappears. For this reason we have decided to maintain our *Drop and Go* lobby. We always have extra faculty on hand to help with winter coats, changing shoes and transitioning into the studio. We have had much success with the drop and go lobby over the past couple of years and we will maintain this as it has been very successful in allowing our dancers to enter the dance space calmly.

6.

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.** No food items are permitted in the lobby.
- **Please arrive to class on time and ready to dance.** As we begin to transition away from some Covid protocols we will maintain many of our enhanced safety protocols. **With restricted lobby space we ask that you arrive no more than 5-10 minutes prior to the start time in your dance attire.** This will ensure that the class leaving the studio has enough time to exit the building before the next class arrives.
- **Sharing days are listed above giving you the opportunity to see what your child has been working on.** For all other class days, you may want

to consider grabbing a coffee from Sunterra or Krew Kafé, 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. In the rare case of a parent/guardian or student showing disrespect or defamation to any parent/guardian, staff member or student, a meeting will be called immediately, and dismissal may be considered at the discretion of the owners. Physical, mental, emotional, or cyber bullying by parents/guardians, staff or students will not be tolerated and may result in dismissal from the studio.

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.

7. Cancellations

Cancellations received prior to August 1st of the current dance year will be charged a \$75 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.

8. Sharing Weeks

In class sharing days for the upcoming dance year are listed in section 3. Instructors will continue to post photos and video snippets in BAND throughout the term. 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 as this helps positively reinforce your child's commitment to dance.

9. Photos and Video

Parents are not permitted to take photos with the exception of in-person class sharing days and dress rehearsal days. Teachers and Faculty do take photos and videos in class to use as teaching and practice tools and to share learning that is taking place in the class. These photos and videos 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.

10. 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. We have 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!

11. 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.

We will continue to use the BAND app as our primary form of communication; 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 2023-2024 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

12. 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.**

13. Office Hours

Our office hours will be as follows for the 2022-2023 dance season:

Mondays-/Tuesdays 12pm- 9pm

Wednesday - Thursday: 9am-9pm

Friday 11am-8pm

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.

14. Recitals

Recitals dates for the 2023/24 season will be confirmed as soon as possible. We heard from families that they were unhappy with the long weekend booking, nor do they want evenings however this makes booking a venue extremely difficult. We also agree that this is also not ideal however the holds we have listed below are the only openings between March and June we were able to secure in any venue in town.

We have the following dates on hold:

Tuesday May 7/Wed May 8 for Rehearsals

Tuesday May 14/Wednesday May 15 for Performances at the Myer Horowitz OR

May 17-20 at the Arden Theatre or Citadel * Please note this is the long weekend.

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.