

Overview of Class Placement

The staff at The P.A.C.E. Studio is committed to providing the best environment for your child to grow and develop as a dancer. We look at each child *individually* to assess their abilities and place them in the class(es) that will best suit learning and growth. As a professionally trained staff that has numerous years of experience, we take the task of assessing students very seriously to ensure each one is provided the best opportunity to progress, excel and be confident in their learning. We collectively evaluate each child annually and place each child in the level that will continue their growth as dancers and challenge them best.

It is not uncommon for children of the same age to be placed in different levels due to varying learning abilities and previous experience. Students may also be in different levels in different disciplines, as individual progression may vary. (For example, student is in Level II Ballet, but Level I Tap.) Please know that we always have your child's BEST interests in mind when placing them in their individual class levels. We want each child to feel confident in their abilities and neither overwhelm them with a class that is too fast for them, nor bore them with a class pace that is too slow.

Frequently, at the beginning of the year it is necessary to make adjustments in class placement to ensure your child's learning needs are being met, especially if your child is new to the studio. We always consider the first few weeks in the fall as "placement evaluation." In addition, we also strive for the best group dynamic possible and must make determinations on placement based upon class size as well.

Lastly, it is important to understand that progression to the next level does not occur each year. You should expect that your child will remain in a particular level for a couple of years before mastering the concepts sufficiently to be promoted to the next level.



Class Placement and Levels at The P.A.C.E. Studio

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Description of Levels

YOUNG CHILDREN LEVELS

Young children learn readily through play and each creative activity in class is a learning experience. Creative exploration is important for students to learn about their bodies, how to move and develop an awareness about dance. These are key concepts for our youngest dancers.

Pre-K

For all students aged 3–5, not enrolled in kindergarten. Creative imagery, props and song repetition are used to subtly introduce technical concepts. Large motor skills are a primary concentration (e.g., skipping, hopping, jumping), as well as coordination, rhythm, stretching, basic terminology, body awareness, beginning positions and listening skills.

K-2

For all students in kindergarten to 2nd grade. This level builds on and increases their understanding of basic movement from the previous level. Increased concentration will center on alignment, tempo and patterns. Many of the same approaches to learning technique as the Pre-K level will be used (e.g., pretend imagery), and repetition continues to be a key learning tool for establishing the basic technical foundation.

Any new beginning dance student age 8 or older (i.e., with no previous dance experience) must be evaluated by a teacher in a dance class to be placed in the appropriate level.

UPPER TRAINING LEVELS

These levels begin a more formalized approach to technique in a systematic progression. Each new level brings a greater challenge as well as a greater demand of commitment and physicality.

Each level follows a general syllabus which provides an evaluation tool, as well as continuity through all levels. There is a specific cumulative progression of skills from each level to the next, with the pace and sophistication of concepts taught increasing at each level.

Individual ability is the primary determiner of placement in these training levels.

TEACHER APPROVAL IS REQUIRED FOR PLACEMENT IN EACH OF THESE UPPER TRAINING LEVELS.

Level I

Prerequisite: Sufficient completion of K-2 level.

Level II

Prerequisite: Sufficient completion of Level I.

Level III

Prerequisite: Sufficient completion of Level II.

Level IV

Prerequisite: Sufficient completion of Level III.

Level V

Prerequisite: Sufficient completion of Level IV. All Jazz, Lyrical and Modern students must take a Ballet class.

Level VI

Prerequisite: Sufficient completion of Level V. All Jazz, Lyrical and Modern students must take a Ballet class.

Pre-Pointe

Prerequisite: By teacher invitation only. At least two years of ballet technique at Level IV or higher, meets age requirements and Ballet one time a week required.

Pointe I

Prerequisite: By teacher invitation only. Sufficient completion of Pre-Pointe, meets age requirement and Level V or VI Ballet two times a week required.

Pointe II

Prerequisite: By teacher invitation only. Sufficient completion of Pointe I. Level V or VI Ballet two times a week required.

For a complete and detailed schedule of classes offered for each level and dance style, please see the Studio Brochure or the weekly class schedule available online or in the office.

★ Ballet

★ Pointe

★ Tap

★ Hip-Hop

★ Jazz

★ Lyrical

★ Modern

★ Acrobatics