



Dear Parents,

We are so excited to welcome you to the 2011-2012 season at Front & Center. We realize that for some of you this may be your child's first performing arts class experience. It is our goal to make the transition into class as smooth and comfortable as possible for both you and your child. We have prepared the following information to help you. We find that the better prepared the child is regarding what to expect, the easier the transition will be. We encourage you to review this information with your child prior to class.

**Story Time:** We begin each class for our 2-6 year olds with a dance or theatre related children's story. The story will begin 5 minutes prior to class (except for Broadway Babes class where it is part of the class time). We encourage you to arrive early with your child dressed and ready for class in time for the story. This time really helps the children transition from the outside world to class time.

**Potty Time:** Please ensure that your child has used the potty before class begins. The class assistant is available to take children to the bathroom during class, but it is less distracting for everyone if it is done before. If your child is NOT potty trained, or newly potty trained, an adult must remain in the lobby. FNC teachers will not change diapers.

**Manners and Sticker Charts:** Please refer to the Dancers and Actors Manners in your Welcome Packet or on our website. These manners serve as a guideline for how we conduct ourselves at the studio and in our classes, for both students and parents. For our youngest students, we will emphasize only a few key manners such as keeping our hands to yourself, not touching the barres, and listening while the teacher is talking. At the end of each class, each child who followed his or her manners will be given a full star on the teacher's chart. If a child has not followed the manners, he or she will have been given a warning during the class and may receive a half a star or a line on the teacher's chart. If this happens, the teacher will briefly speak to the parent or caregiver at the end of class. Every child will receive a sticker on the hand to take home. That sticker is to say thank you for "singing and dancing with us today". We find this system to be very effective in teaching proper classroom etiquette allowing us to maximize our class instructional and fun time! If you have any questions about this, please feel free to call Miss Renee at the studio at 973-258-1123.

**Parent Participation:** We encourage you to talk to your child about the work we are doing in class each week. Your child will come home with a coloring sheet each week that relates to something we have been working on in class. This is meant to be a conversation starter between you and your child. We will also be following a specific curriculum based on the Leap 'N Learn syllabus. ([www.leapnlearn.com](http://www.leapnlearn.com)) Each month we will focus on a studio wide Monthly Objective and Movement Concept. These will be posted in the lobby and included in our monthly eNews. Parents are NOT allowed into the actual dance studio. You are welcome to watch class on the monitor from the lobby. You are also welcome to drop off and go to Target!

**Dress Code and Hair:** Please refer to your welcome packet for the proper shoe, clothing, and hair requirements for class. We will be having multiple shoe fittings at the studio to ensure that everyone has the proper shoes. We will also be selling a small selection of tights and leotards. For girls, underwear is not to be worn under tights. Also, new this year NO SKIRTS ALLOWED IN CLASS. All leotards must be solid color, with no patterns, sparkles, or designs.

**Communicating with Teachers:** We encourage open lines of communication at our studio. However, if you need to speak to your child's teacher or a director, please make an appointment at the front desk. Remember that the teacher has limited time between classes and needs to get back into the studio for the next group of children. We ask that you respect this time and not try to have a conference directly before or after class. We will be happy to have the teacher call you back when he or she has time to devote his or her full attention to you.

**Dance Bags:** All children should have a dance bag that comes into the studio with him or her. For dance combo classes we will always begin in ballet shoes. You can put them on with your child and put tap shoes in the dance bag. PLEASE LABEL ALL SHOES WITH YOUR CHILDS NAME! We also encourage you to keep an extra set of dance clothes in the bag of newly potty trained children.

We are so excited to begin another season at Front & Center. Please feel free to give us a call if you have any questions before classes begin on Monday September 13th!

Yours in Dance,

Miss Renee