

Congratulations! You're Officially a Dance Parent

Welcome to the club, dance moms and dads! Now that you've formally signed your child up for lessons, you are officially a dance parent at Ruckus Dance Alliance!

Being a dance parent here is a little bit like being in a secret society; there's this new lingo to learn and a whole culture that you are now a part of. Here's the inside scoop on what you need to know for your new status as a Ruckus dance mom or dad:

Study up on your dancewear vocab. A **leotard** is the form-fitting bodysuit that dancers wear to class, and **tights** are usually worn underneath (kinda like pantyhose). **Ballet shoes** are usually pink and should fit snugly on your child's feet; don't buy them with room to grow! **Tap shoes** are the noisy ones, and **jazz shoes** look a little like slip-on ballet shoes, except with a small heel. At Ruckus we can order all of the dancewear and shoes your dancer needs, so you won't have to run around town trying to find these items!

Practice how to do a bun. A **bun** is the hairstyle we recommend for most classes, as it allows students to move freely without getting hair in their face. A quick Google or YouTube search will give you oodles of tutorials to choose from—or just ask us! We can give you a demo right here in the lobby. The most important thing is we don't want any loose hair falling your dancer's face. If your dancer is busy pushing her hair back, then her hands won't be in the place they need to be for the steps she is doing.

Pack a dance bag. Dance shoes, a water bottle, extra dancewear, and hair supplies ... all of these things belong in your child's **dance bag**. (Avoid allowing your child to wear their dance shoes outside; it's damaging to both their shoes and our floors.) Be sure to label everything with your child's name or initials!

Learn about the recital. At Ruckus, we offer an opportunity every year for our students to perform. The **recital**, as it's commonly known, is when each class performs a routine onstage and in **costume**, and family and friends watch the show from the audience. Stay tuned all year to our emails and handouts for all the need-to-know recital info!

Introduce yourself to the other parents. We love building a **community** of like-minded moms and dads who understand our **culture** and enjoy having their children involved in dance. Our super-friendly dance parents are some of the best people we know, so we encourage you to introduce yourself in the lobby. Share stories, find carpool, plan playdates, or ask about their personal experiences at Ruckus.

Being a dance parent is pretty awesome but being a dance parent at Ruckus is even better! We hope this primer serves you well and helps you feel welcome at the studio. We're glad you're here!