

## Parents Watching Weeks

It's Parent Watching Week at Aspirations School of Dance, and while we know you will come to see your child shine, there are a few other things we hope you will observe and take away from the experience. But first, here are a few things you should know about Parent Observation and how to best prepare your young dancer.

### **Observation Classes can be loud and intimidating for the dancers.**

It can be a little scary for young dancers to face a room full adults during their normal class when they are not used to that. Needless to say, all of the excitement may cause your child to act out of character, possibly get upset or simply just need to sit with you for a minute. If you notice behaviours that concern you, just ask your teacher. But chances are your child is just reacting to the audience in the room.

### **Prepare your child.**

Remind your child that there will be parents watching their class, but they need to listen to their teacher and dance just like normal so you can watch them! If you know that your child may want to sit with you or be a little clingy: agree to one or two hugs before class starts and then immediately after, but encourage them not to sit in your lap or ask to be held during the class.

### **Warn your child in advance if you will not be attending the full class.**

It is heart-breaking to see a young child expect to see their parents with all of the other Mummy's and Daddy's and then not find them. So if you will be dropping your dancer off and not returning until the end, or only watching for part of the class, please talk with your dancer in advance so they know what to expect.

### **Try Not to Interact With Your Dancer During The Class.**

It can be hard not to talk to your dancer or let them run to your lap every few minutes, but in order for the class to run smoothly we need to minimize these distractions. So encourage your dancer to participate in the full class and celebrate with them after.

### **Celebrate Their Accomplishments!**

Young dancers will not get everything right, and may struggle to focus with an audience in the room, so be sure to catch them winning at certain things so you can celebrate those accomplishments!

Here are few accomplishments to look for:

1. They understand and participate in the flow and different parts of the class
2. They listen to the teacher and attempt to follow directions
3. They know the name of dance steps and participate in choreography
4. They are kind and respectful to their teacher and their classmates
5. Their smiles are contagious and light up the room!

### **If Your Child Is Too Upset to Participate...**

That's Okay! Class Observations can be very overwhelming for young dancers.

*Observation Classes are not an indicator of how well your child will perform on stage on in an examination!* We have had dancers struggle with observation week that do amazingly on stage and in exams so don't be worried or discouraged.

### **It's More Than Just Dance!**

We hope you will observe the love, care and devotion we have for our students; as well as their commitment to excellence. Dance is about so much more than just the steps and we want our dancers to gain not only a passion and love for dance, but also be encouraged to love and care for others.