



Classroom Etiquette for Youth Dance Institute Dancers 2017-2018

Adapted from two articles from the Radio City Rockettes website:

<https://www.rockettes.com/blog/etiquette-101-12-dance-class-rules-you-should-follow/>

<https://www.rockettes.com/blog/how-to-be-an-a-student-in-dance-class/>

1. **Arrive early.** Not on time. Early. If you can't avoid being late, enter very quietly and wait for the OK from your teacher to enter the dance floor. After class, be sure to apologize for your late arrival.
2. **Come prepared.** Everyone is forgetful sometimes, but the best students start preparing for their class in advance.
3. **Go jewelry-free.** Obtrusive jewelry is potentially dangerous to you and others.
4. **Stow away the cell phone.** Turn off—don't just silence—your cell phone. Putting it on vibrate can still make distracting noise.
5. **Stay for the entire class.** It's always best to stay for the entire duration of the class, but if you must leave early, talk to the teacher beforehand and make your exit as quickly and discreetly as possible.
6. **Don't leave and come back into your class.** Stay in the studio for the entirety of class—no ins-and-outs. This can be distracting to your fellow dancers.
7. **Trust and respect your teacher.** Trust his or her judgement, decisions, methods and knowledge. If you have good reason not to, find a teacher you CAN trust and respect.
8. **Listen while the dance teacher is talking.** That means no talking while they're talking. Not even quietly to your neighbor.
9. **Talk with your teacher about things relative to the class.** Establish a solid, professional relationship with your teacher. Stick to the subject, ask questions and avoid being a distraction.
10. **Ask questions and listen to the questions asked by others.** Just remember to think before you ask.
11. **Respond graciously and with gratitude at all times.** Leave any negativity outside the studio. Remember to say thank you for corrections and complements.
12. **Try your best.** Never walk out of a class or sit down in frustration—hang in there and try your best, no one will fault you for that.
13. **Be courteous and respectful.** At the end of class, applaud and thank the instructor.

14. **Stay focused and alert during class.** Be rested and eat well—this makes it easier to stay awake and alert (especially if you have an early morning class!).
15. **Pay attention at all times, especially when waiting for your turn.** You don't want to get caught slouching or looking bored. And don't ever sit down unless you're asked to.
16. **Mentally tag your mistakes and show up rather than show off.** Wouldn't you rather spend time trying to improve than rehash what you already do well? Thought so.
17. **Be ready, willing and eager to go back to the basics.** Hardcore dancers learn from dancing with beginners and returning to the basics of their technique. That's why they love it.
18. **[Apply corrections quickly.](#)** No one likes to give the same correction over and over, so if you don't understand, ask questions!
19. **Demonstrate good spatial awareness.** This includes giving the instructor space, but don't crowd those in the back of the room to do so.
20. **Absorb movement and direction as quickly as possible.** Sure, this is a skill that takes practice but good dance students always work to get it faster.
21. **Think ahead as you dance.** Believe it or not, this also takes practice. Develop your [intuition for choreography](#) and other things by making sure you're staying focused, applying corrections, asking questions and practicing.
22. **Don't film or take pictures in class.** Always ask your dance teacher's permission before recording or photographing any portion of your dance class.
23. **Avoid being a distraction.** Yes, this is a "what not to do." Know [proper dance class etiquette](#) and follow it.
24. **Listen to the body in class.** A good dance student knows his or her limitations and modifies the movement or steps when it is necessary to avoid injury.
25. **[Be supportive and encouraging of your classmates.](#)** Clap for them. Praise their efforts and accomplishments. Offer to help or give help when asked.
26. **Take notes.** Dancers don't often take written notes during class, but they do take mental ones and then write them down later.
27. **Condition the body outside of class.** Dance class is where you develop your dance skills. You develop greater dance fitness, strength and endurance to perform these dance skills with cross-training outside of class.