



Is My Child Ready for Storybook Ballet?

Most children who have recently turned three do very well in our classes, but some benefit from a little more time. The following quick checklist can help you decide if your child may be ready.

Your child may be ready for Storybook Ballet if they can:

- 👧 Separate from a caregiver without prolonged distress
- 👧 Follow simple two-step directions (ex: “tiptoe to the wall and sit down”)
- 👧 Sit and listen during a short 5-minute story
- 👧 Stay in their spot during group activities for several minutes
- 👧 Begin experimenting with galloping or hopping on two feet
- 👧 Use the bathroom independently

Every child develops these skills at their own pace. For many children, **turning three is the beginning of readiness rather than the exact moment it begins.**

Detailed descriptions of these readiness skills are explained below.

Physical Readiness

Children should have enough body awareness to identify and move different body parts such as knees, fingers, and toes. They also need enough control of their bodies to sit reasonably still during our 5-minute story time and remain on their dot during circle exercises (10–15 minutes).

Successful potty training often indicates this physical control, though even confident underpants-wearers sometimes need a little more time. Around this age, many children are beginning to gallop with a leading foot and hop on two feet. If your child is not yet experimenting with hopping or galloping, we often recommend waiting a little longer before beginning class.

Behavioral Readiness

Students should be able to follow a simple two-part direction (for example: “tiptoe to the wall and sit criss-cross applesauce”). As the semester progresses, we gradually build toward longer directions.

While we do not expect perfection, students should be able to follow the teacher’s directions with the class most of the time without needing frequent individual reminders. This helps the class run smoothly and ensures that all children have a positive experience.

Emotional Readiness

Children should be able to separate from their caregiver without prolonged distress that may worry the other children or require the teacher's full attention. We will always work with families to help make these transitions comfortable.

However, if a child's distress is overwhelming or frightening for the class, we may recommend waiting until the next semester before trying again. We never want ballet class to feel scary or stressful for a young child.

Adjusting to Class

Storybook Ballet is designed to gently introduce these school-readiness skills while keeping class joyful and engaging. Some children simply need a class or two to adjust to the routine.

If after three weeks we do not see progress in these areas, we may recommend withdrawing and waiting for the next semester. In that case, we will credit tuition for the remaining classes, minus our nonrefundable registration fee. During the school year, please consider our **Petite Division** (ages 2-3.5) which includes caregiver participation.