PARENT GUIDE

Ballet I & IB Division
(ages 7-10 years)

Session Dates & Closures

- **FALL SESSION: August 31- December 13, 2026**
    - **Studio Closures:**
        - Labor Day: **September 7**
        - Thanksgiving Break: **November 24-29**
    - **Fall Family Showcase**: **December 7-13** *(held during your child's regularly scheduled class time)*
- **WINTER SPRING SESSION: January 18- May 9, 2027**
    - **Studio Closures:**
        - Spring Break: **March 22-28**
    - **Fall Family Showcase: May 3-9** *(held during your child's regularly scheduled class time)*

🌸 If you know your child will be absent from their Showcase, please notify us immediately as this will affect our choreography.

Absences & Make Up Classes

How to request a make-up class:

- Please do not request a make-up class via email. Submit our online **Make-Up Request Form**.
- List the specific day and time options (of the same level) that work with your schedule. It may be necessary to view our **Fall Class Schedule** or **Winter Spring Class Schedule** first.
- We will review availability and contact you via email to confirm if space is available.
- If your requested date is full, our office cannot hold or monitor future dates. You are welcome to submit a new request for a different date.
- **Availability & Scheduling:** Because most of our classes are at or near capacity, make-up spots rely entirely on *known absent dancers* and are **not guaranteed**.
- If your child attends a make-up class, they will practice the choreography at the back of the studio as they are not with their regular class.
- Regular attendance is needed to build choreography. If your child is regularly absent, this affects their ability to learn the material and affects the class overall.
- **Make-Up Policy:** No more than two make-up classes, and no make-up classes during Showcase Week.

How to report an absence:

- If your dancer will be absent, please notify us in advance at contact@storybookballet.com.

Final Two Years at Storybook

- **Ballet I** is one-year division. **Ballet IB** is the second year of Ballet I and is also a one-year division.
- Unlike the younger divisions, students must take both Fall and Winter Spring to complete the level. Even though we conduct a separate Winter Spring Registration, our expectation is that your child will continue into the second session.
- Students will graduate after completing our Ballet IB level. We will have a parent meeting in the spring for our Ballet IB graduate families (to discuss options for future ballet training).

Signature Sparkle Events

- Throughout the session, we celebrate our upper division dancers with dedicated *Signature Sparkle Events*- including creative attire days, studio traditions, and special division outings! These events foster dancer connection, camaraderie, and extra joy in their training.
- A schedule of this session's sparkle events will be handed directly to you at their first class.

Attire, Hair, & Jewelry

- **Female Students:** Black leotard, pink tights, and pink ballet shoes. No attached or pull-on skirts please!
- **Male Students:** White t-shirt, black tights, black ballet shoes.
- **Hair & Accessories:** Long hair should be worn in a bun. Short hair should be secured away from the face and off the neck. A bun tutorial can be found on our website under CLASS INFO/Attire. *Please, no bracelets or necklaces.*
- **Shoe Safety:** Double knot long shoestrings or neatly tuck them inside the shoe prior to class.

Arrival & Studio Etiquette

- **Early Arrival:** We suggest arriving 10 minutes early to class to allow your dancer to use restroom, put shoes on, and prepare calmly.
- **Punctuality:** Please avoid arriving late. If you arrive late and students are at the barre, please wait until the exercise is complete before sending your child into the studio. Arriving late affects your child's ability to properly warm up their body.

Behavior Policy

- To maintain a safe and supportive learning environment, students must be able to follow basic directions. If a dancer is consistently distracted or disrupting their peers, they may be asked to observe the class from the lobby. If behavioral concerns persist, we reserve the right to withdraw a student so all children can learn effectively.
- In the tradition of classical ballet, we teach and encourage manners and respect.

Inclement Weather

- **Cancellations:** In the event of severe weather, families will be notified directly via email.
- If a class is canceled due to weather, parents are welcome to request a makeup class using our online **Make-Up Request Form**. Please note that makeup space is limited, on a first-come basis, and not guaranteed. No tuition credits or refunds are provided for weather closures.

Outside Performance & Audition Policy

- If a student wishes to audition for outside productions (such as *The Nutcracker*), please inform us! We can walk you through the process and make sure that your child is prepared, supported, and has our professional Audition Tips!

Ballet I Milestone: Understanding Turnout

- **What It Is:** The outward rotation of the leg from the hip socket, enabling greater leg extension, flexibility, and classic ballet line.
- **The Tradition:** Originated in the 17th-century court of King Louis XIV- partly derived from fencing posture and showing off ornate court shoes!
- **Class Focus:** Dancers transition from parallel positioning to executing movements primarily from 1st and 3rd positions, laying the technical foundation for 5th position in Ballet IB.

We look forward to sharing a wonderful session with your family!