



The NZ TotZ Handbook

2019-2020

The NZ TotZ is a competitive dance company designed for the little one who loves to dance and perform.

Commitment: NZ TotZ participants are required to participate from August 2019 through Recital 2020 with the option of attending Nationals 2020. This is a serious commitment. Participants are expected to fulfill this commitment. All parents will be required to sign a parent agreement. The NZ TotZ attend 3-4 regional competitions – with 1-2 of those regional competitions being out-of-state, and 1 (optional) national competition in the summer (usually at the end of June or early July). All dancers are required to participate in all regional competitions. All are mandatory, unless noted otherwise. Any violation of this handbook/commitment/contract may result in the dancer's immediate removal from the NZ TotZ program.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory for all **NZ TotZ** classes. Ballet, jazz and tap technique, and rehearsal classes are extremely important. When it comes to school and family activities you will find Expressenz Dance Center to be accommodating and flexible. However, by accepting placement in this program, you have agreed that this is a priority in your schedule. Missed classes for any reason other than illness or emergency must be cleared personally through the studio.

Financial Commitment:

- Being in a program such as this requires a certain financial commitment.
- Registration fee \$60 (\$20 for additional dancers in the same immediate family)
- Base fee for NZ TotZ (including Ballet Expressenz program dues, and required technique classes)

NZ TotZ:

- \$180 a month (family discount \$175 for second dancer and \$170 for third+ dancer) Includes: 1 ballet technique, 1 combined jazz technique/stretch, 1 tap technique, 45 minute rehearsal & BNZ program dues

All additional ballet technique, tumbling, jazz technique classes cost \$37.00 per class each month, as well as any other additional class added which is not on your schedule.

Technique Privates: Lessons cost \$40.00 a ½ hour.

Payment for classes is due on the first of every month. **Any payment for classes made after the 7th will be assessed a late charge of \$15.00.**

Competition Fees: Fees associated with each competition are based upon prices set by the competition itself. These generally run around \$50-\$65 per person per routine. Fees for competitions are due to the studio by the due date indicated on the invoice. In most instances this is at least 45 days prior to/in advance of each competition. **Missing an assigned due date will result in a \$15 late fee.** Please note that there will be a \$3.00 administrative processing fee placed on each entry for competition. An additional \$10 convention fee, and additional \$10 Nationals fee will apply on all convention and Nationals invoices (if a dancer participates). **NO STUDENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE IF FEES ARE NOT PAID.**

Make-Up and Costumes: Specific make-up is required for NZ TotZ, and will also need to be purchased by you. Everyone is required to purchase the same eye shadow, blush, lipstick, and lip liner. A separate costume will be chosen for each routine that a dancer is selected. By accepting placement in this program, you agree to purchase and wear the costumes designed by the director or choreographer. We usually try to keep the cost between \$100-\$200ish a piece for a custom-made costume. (These numbers do not include sales tax.) Dancer will not receive costume until paid in full. **Missing an assigned due date will result in a \$15 late fee.**

Both Ballet Expressenz Nutcracker as well as Recital performances sometimes require the cost of a separate Leotard costume and/or costume (est. price range \$25-\$75 before sales tax).

Please note the costume deposit schedule:

- NZ TotZ - \$75.00 per costume per routine due in September (date TBD)

Missing an assigned due date will result in a \$15 late fee. This includes all fees & invoices.

PLEASE NOTE that these are costume *deposits*. The additional cost per costume will be billed at a later date. If a NZ TotZ member violates this handbook/ commitment/ contract and quits or is dismissed from the NZ TotZ program for any reason, there will be NO refunds on any costume deposits and/or costume amounts paid. Expressenz Dance Center owns the costumes and also maintains the right to keep any partial or completed costumes.

Every dancer is required to have each and every piece of their costume when attending competitions.

Nutcracker Participation fee: All NZ TotZ members are required to pay the fee when due (est. \$65-\$75)

Recital Participation fee: All NZ TotZ members are required to pay the fee when due (est. \$60-\$75)

Tights: All dancers are required to purchase their tights through the studio for Nutcracker and competition.

The Competition Experience: It is important to understand that the “competition” aspect of being a member of The NZ TotZ should be considered a “performance” opportunity. Competition results are strictly a subjective opinion, and your child’s growth should not be completely gauged by their scores or achievements at competitions. It is important to keep your competition experience positive and most importantly, be proud of the growth and development that takes place within your child. We do not foster competition within our Company and NZ TotZ, and all we ask from our students is that each child works to their full capacity. We understand that each child is a gift to us, and each is uniquely different.

Extra Practices: On occasion a teacher may find it important to add additional rehearsals before a competition. We make every effort to give enough notice so families are able to coordinate their schedules. These practices do not cost extra money. They usually take place on Friday afternoons and/or on Sundays. Remember these are to benefit the dancers. We all want them to be comfortable and to dance their best. Sometimes due to weather cancellations or other issues a routine just needs some extra time.

Competitions: The competition schedule for the 2019-2020 season will be announced in August. All dancers are required to participate in all regional competitions. Regional competitions will take place both locally and with 1-2 out-of-state regionals competitions. Every effort is made to select competitions that will provide our dancers and their families with the best experience possible. Any cash prize awarded at a competition will go to the studio. Any issue or disgruntlement with a competition or convention needs to be brought to the attention of Karla Curatolo. Parents/family members are not allowed to contact or complain to the competition or convention staff or management.

Expressenz Dance Center approaches competition with a few things in mind:

- Learn to work on a team and build confidence.
- Fun Family Activity- Expressenz wants to attend competitions that are fun for the whole family. Students learn team-building skills, performing arts skills, and develop self-confidence that will last a lifetime. Having fun is the number one priority for this program.

Optional National Competition: Nationals always take place out of the state and is optional for NZ TotZ members. Families are responsible for their transportation and hotel. The studio will try to give recommendations and guidance regarding lodging if needed. Nationals are typically from 4 to 7 days (depending on the nationals we are attending). Dancers need to arrive some time the day before they begin and leave the day after the final day. Some families choose to room and/or carpool together to save money. Nationals is a fun activity for the whole family and a great way to conclude a fabulous season! It is a great opportunity to meet and watch dancers from throughout the United States. Karla will announce the national’s location for the new dance season in August.

Nutcracker: NZ TotZ members are required to participate in our annual Nutcracker in December 2019. The dancers will have mandatory rehearsals that meet on Sunday afternoons that will begin in September and last through December. Only in the event of a family emergency, or cleared absence through the studio, will students be allowed to miss the Nutcracker performances and/or dress rehearsals.

Spring Showcase: The NZ TotZ members are required to participate in the 2019-2020 Spring Showcase. This means that NZ TotZ routines will be placed throughout the day in the shows. Only in the event of a family emergency will students be allowed to miss the Spring Showcase performances and/or dress rehearsals.

Parent Roles: Expressenz Dance Center is a drama free zone! Parents are expected to be supportive, respectful, and courteous to all team members and their families at all times. This studio will not tolerate rudeness, jealousy, resentment, or disrespect to another team member, their family, a teacher, nor the director. It makes no difference to this studio how good your child is or who you are...you are not permitted to bring any negativity whatsoever into this facility, which is full of fabulous families and kids.

Your role is the following:

- Lift up and support all of our children
- Teach your child to be happy for others
- Give a hand to those who may be behind or struggling
- Stand firmly behind the teaching staff
- Work with the teaching staff, showing your child that you are behind their coaches

End Notes: We are very excited to be offering this program to our little ones who love to dance and perform. This program will highlight those who want a committed program above that of pre-company and/or recreational classes. NZ TotZ is a great stepping stone into competition dance and the commitment it requires. We cannot wait to see our NZ TotZ shine on stage.

NZ TotZ/BNZ Letter of Commitment

This correspondence serves as an agreement between you and The NZ TotZ, as produced and directed by Karla N. Curatolo, Owner and Director of Expressenz Dance Center. Your child has been selected to be a member of the 2019-2020 NZ TotZ, an honor as well as privilege. Your signature below indicates that you have read and fully understand all of the requirements associated with participating in the program, as outlined in your NZ TotZ Handbook. Furthermore, your signature indicates your acceptance of those terms and conditions, and that you are well aware of the commitment involved in this program.

Parent: *Please be sure you feel comfortable with your ability to handle the fees incurred for this activity, as with most competitive activities, there are many uncontrollable circumstances and we don't want to catch anyone off guard.*

Monthly tuition, convention/competition fees, costume deposits, costume fees, etc., all have due dates. Monthly Tuition is due at the beginning of each month and is late after the 7th. All other fees are late after the posted due dates. A late fee of \$15 will be added to any late payments. A \$35 bank fee will be assessed for a non-sufficient funds payment, as well as corresponding late fee of \$15. It is each parent's responsibility to be aware of fees due, schedule changes, etc. We suggest coming in to the studio at least weekly to check for news, and to check emails for studio information and updates daily. Commitment to this program means that you will honor attendance requirements for all classes and competitions.

In addition to the above, we understand a violation of the commitment to this program/contract has serious consequences that may result in being permanently dismissed from the program.

I have read the above information and will be responsible for my child's account and activity requirements.

X _____

Date _____

Please return this signed agreement to the front desk by August 9, 2019. Please complete one form for each of your children who have accepted placement in The NZ TotZ.