
The NZ TotZ is a competitive dance company designed for little ones who love to dance and perform.

Commitment:

NZ TotZ participants are required to participate from August 2024 through the end of June 2025 with the option of attending Nationals 2025. This is a serious commitment and not to be taken lightly. Participants are expected to fulfill this obligation. All parents will be required to sign a parent letter of commitment. The NZ TotZ attend 3-5 regional competitions/conventions – with 1-2 of these regional competitions/conventions being out-of-state. All regional competitions/conventions 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. If a dancer quits mid-season, said dancer is never allowed into the program again, unless special circumstance, which is approved beforehand by the Director. For any reason and at any time, Karla, the owner of Expressenz Dance Center, has the right to dismiss a dancer/family from Expressenz Dance Center. If said dancer/family were to be dismissed and/or quits, no refunds will be given. This includes, and is not limited to, costumes, costume fees, tuition, privates, performances fees and competition/convention fees.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory for all NZ TotZ classes and rehearsals. Ballet, jazz, tap 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. By accepting placement in this program, you have agreed this is a priority in your schedule.

Missed classes for any reason other than illness or emergency must be approved in advance by Karla, the Director.

Illness: Dancers are not allowed to come to the studio while sick. If a teacher believes a student to be ill, they will be sent home. Dancers will not be allowed to come in "to watch" while ill. Dancers are only required to come in "to watch" while injured. In addition, dancers are only allowed 2 unexcused absences each season. Student absences will be recorded. Any ballet/ jazz/ tap/ technique class missed must be made up as best possible. Being a well-rounded individual is important and we support students pursuing other activities. However, when it comes to participation on a competitive team, skills are constantly being taught which necessitates students being present.

Injuries: We realize that injuries happen. Be sure to notify Expressenz immediately when an injury occurs. As soon as possible, please provide proper documentation such as a doctor's note, physical therapy directions, etc to NZ Staff. Injured dancers will be expected to attend and observe all rehearsals and classes unless specified by Karla. Please note that no refunds or credits will be given during the time a dancer is required to sit-out/observe due to an injury. When a dancer must sit out while healing, it can be a valuable time for them to gain new insight into their technique/routines while remaining an active role as a teammate.

Attendance of any/ all events and opportunities that are affiliated with Expressenz, which results in missed class, are excused absences.

Absences:

- For any pre-planned absences, please be sure to email the studio in advance.
- Day of absences should be both emailed and called in.

Please note: It will always be your responsibility to notify any private teachers of any absences to avoid any charges/fees.

Financial Commitment:

Being in a program such as this requires a certain financial commitment:

- Registration fee \$75 (\$35 for additional dancers in the same immediate family)
- Base fee for NZ TotZ (including Ballet Expressenz program dues, rehearsal and required technique classes)

*****Missing any assigned invoice due date will result in a \$25 late fee per invoice/per month. This applies to all fees & invoices.**

NZ TotZ:

- \$200 per month (family discount \$195 for second dancer and \$190 for third + dancer) Includes: 1 ballet technique, 1 combined jazz technique/stretch, 1 tap technique, 30 minute rehearsal & BNZ program dues

All additional ballet technique, tumbling, jazz technique classes cost \$40.00 per class each month, as well as any other additional class added which is not on your schedule.

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 \$25.00.

Technique Privates: Lessons cost \$45.00 per ½ hour.

Technique Semi-Privates (Privates with 2 dancers): Lessons cost \$60.00 per ½ hour (\$30 per dancer).

Nutcracker Participation fee: All NZ TotZ members are required to pay the fee when due (\$130)

Spring Showcase Recital Participation fee: All NZ TotZ members are required to pay the fee when due (\$125). *June tuition must be paid in full in order for a dancer to participate in the Spring Showcase Recital.*

Expressenz Event Ticketing: Pricing for Expressenz Performance Events (such as Nutcracker and Spring Showcase Recital) will range from \$25-35 per ticket. Children 2 and younger are FREE, but must sit on a lap.

Competition/Conventions Fees: Fees associated with each competition/convention are based upon prices set by the competition/convention itself. These generally run \$65-\$90 per person per routine. Duos/Trios/Solos are typically \$85-\$200 per competition routine. Convention participation fees generally run between \$265-\$465 per dancer. Fees for competitions/conventions are due to the studio by the due date indicated on the invoice. In most instances, this is at least 60-120 days in advance of each competition. **Missing an assigned invoice due date will result in a \$25 late fee.** Please note there will be a \$4.00 administrative processing fee on each entry for competitions and conventions. There will also be a \$10 convention fee for each Regional convention and a \$30 National fee for any national convention. **NO DANCER WILL BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE IF FEES ARE NOT PAID IN FULL AND TUITION PAYMENTS ARE NOT CURRENT.**

Solo Fees (only applies to some): The solo fee is \$400.00 for a NZ TotZ solo (all fees must be paid prior to the start of the routine choreography - no exceptions). This fee includes 3, one-hour private rehearsals or 6, half hour private rehearsals. After that, students pay the private lesson rate of \$45.00 per half hour. Private lesson dates and times are indicated in the dancer's audition results schedule, if applicable. The NZ TotZ Registration fee of \$75 must also be paid prior to the start of the solo.

- Letters of Commitment, registration fees, and registration forms must be signed and turned into Expressenz before choreography begins
- Soloists are required to come up with their own costume. Options may include borrowing, buying, or custom-made costumes
- No refunds or credits will be issued on solo, duo, or trio fees
- All solo, duo, or trio choreography is the property of Expressenz Dance Center and cannot be used without the permission of Expressenz Dance Center
- Dancers wanting to use an outside choreographer must get pre-approval from Karla
- Parents are not allowed to contact guest choreographers that we bring into the studio
- Expressenz Dance Center will select choreographers
- Choreographers/Teachers have the final decision on the styles of dance, music, and choreography

Jewelry Make-Up and Costumes: Specific make-up is required for NZ TotZ and will need to be purchased by you. Everyone is required to purchase the same eye shadow, blush, lipstick, and lip liner. All NZ TotZ members are required to purchase jewelry. Cost is approximately \$10-\$15. 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 attempt to keep the cost of each costume between \$200-\$300ish (not including sales tax). Dancers will not receive a costume until it has been paid in full. **Missing an assigned invoice due date will result in a \$25 late fee.** If a costume needs alterations or repairs after they've been passed out, parents will be responsible for those alterations.

**Please note Ballet Expressenz Nutcracker and Spring Showcase Recital performances sometimes require separate leotards and/or costumes (estimated price range \$25-\$85 before sales tax).

Costume Deposit Schedule:

- NZ TotZ Costume Deposit - \$95.00 per costume per routine due on August 29, 2024.
- Soloists are required to come up with their own costume. Soloists' costume options can include borrowing, buying, or custom-made costumes.
- *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*

Tights: All dancers are required to purchase tights through the studio for Nutcracker and Spring Showcase Recital if applicable for Role/Routine.

Team Warm-Ups: All NZ TotZ members are required to purchase a team warm-up jacket. This is to be worn over costumes at all times while at competition and performance events. Warm-up order forms will be emailed out to TotZ families in early August. Dancers must be in Expressenz's clothing/merchandise/warm-ups during awards ceremonies.

Late Pick-up Fee: If you are more than 15 minutes late picking up (after closing time), your dancer's account will be charged a \$25 dollar late pick-up fee, except in emergency situations. We understand things happen so please contact the studio if you are going to be late. This fee will be invoiced following the incident.

The Competition Experience:

It is important to understand that the "competition" aspect of being a member of The NZ TotZ program 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 or NZ TotZ programs. All we ask from our students is that each dancer works to their full capacity. We understand that each child is a gift to us, and each is uniquely different.

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

- Educational Opportunity - competitions against the finest teams allow our teachers and students the opportunity to "see what is out there" and grow
- Pre-professional Opportunity - students who wish to pursue the professional world of dance have an opportunity to grow and develop their performance skills through competition
- Fun Family Activity - we want 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

Competitions/Conventions: The competition/convention schedule for the 2024-25 season will be announced at the NZ TotZ parent only meeting VIA ZOOM on July 30, 2024 at 8:00 pm

- Dancers are required to participate in all regional competitions/conventions. The NZ TotZ attend 3-5 regional competitions/conventions – with 1-2 of those regional competitions/conventions being out-of-state, and 1 (optional) national competition/convention in the summer (usually at the end of June or early July). Families are responsible for their transportation and hotel to all competitions/conventions (in and out of state). Every effort is made to select competitions that will provide our dancers and their families with the best experience possible.
- All cash prizes awarded at a competition/convention are the property of the studio, with the exception of cash prizes for solos (see previous Competition/Convention Solo Awards section below).
- Any issue or disgruntlement with a competition or convention needs to be brought to the attention of Karla. Dancers, parents, or family members are not allowed to contact or complain to the competition, convention staff, or management.
- **Every dancer is required to have every piece of their costume when attending competitions. If your dancer does not have a piece to their costume, they will not be allowed to dance in that routine.**

Competition/Convention Solo Awards: If a dancer receives a cash award and/or gift certificate at a competition for their solo or if they receive a scholarship at a convention, the parent/dancer is responsible for notifying Expressenz Dance Center. **Parents must submit copies of all information and documents via email or to the front office within 2 weeks of receiving these awards, certificates and/or scholarships.** You will not receive a credit towards your account for the cash award and/or gift certificate from a competition solo or convention scholarship **until** the said competition and/or convention has approved and applied your cash award and/or gift certificate. Your scholarships won with Expressenz can only be used if you are still dancing with Expressenz. Scholarships will not be transferred or released in the event that you quit or are no longer a member of Expressenz.

Additional Optional Convention/Competitions: NZ TotZ dancers have the option to attend additional convention/competitions with our NZ Dance Company. Please notify the studio at least 90 days in advance if you would like to attend these optional conventions/competitions. Additional fees will apply.

Optional National Competition: Nationals take place out-of-state and are optional for NZ TotZ. Families are responsible for their transportation and hotel. The studio will try to give recommendations and guidance regarding lodging. It's typically 5-10 days in duration and dancers usually need to arrive the day before and depart 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's an opportunity to meet and watch dancers from across the United States. The 2025 National's location will be announced on July 30, 2024 at the parent only meeting VIA ZOOM.

Nutcracker:

NZ TotZ members are required to participate in our annual Nutcracker in December 2024. The dancers will have mandatory rehearsals that meet on Sunday afternoons beginning in September and lasting through December. Only in the event of a family emergency, or an approved absence by Karla, will students be allowed to miss any performances and/or dress rehearsals.

Spring Showcase Recital:

The NZ TotZ members are required to participate in the 2024-25 Spring Showcase. NZ TotZ routines will perform throughout the day in both 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

Final Thoughts:

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.

The Director: Karla Curatolo is the Owner of the Expressenz Dance Center and the Director of the NZ Dance Company.

NZ TOTZ EXPENSES *TENTATIVE (per dancer)

Category	Page	Details	Amount
Registration Fee	2	Paid at beginning of each season - *additional dancer(s) get a discount	\$75
Tuition (August-June)	2	Base Tuition Routine Fee Tap Class Fee* Specialty Ballet*	*Refer to Page 2
Additional Class Fee	2	*see page 2 for what counts as an additional class	\$40
Technique Private	2	Per 30 minute private	\$45
Semi-Technique Private		Per 30 minute private with 2 dancers	\$30 per dancer
Solo	2	Includes the first 6 30 minute private lessons, after the 6 private fee applies. (per solo)	\$400
Competition Fee (general/estimation)	2	Per Routine	\$65-\$90
Administrative Fee		Per Solos	\$85-\$200
		Placed on each entry for competition and convention	\$4
Convention Participation (general/estimation)	2		\$265-\$465
Convention Fee			\$10
Nationals Convention Fee	2	<i>Please note Nationals is OPTIONAL for TOTZ</i>	\$30
Competition Title Fee	**	Optional for dancers who want to enter at regional competition	\$45
Media Fee	**	Applies to SDA events only	\$40
Travel Expenses	**	Applies to out-of-state competition & conventions Includes: gas, food, lodging, and flight Depends on location, length & stay of travel	
Nutcracker Participation Fee	2	One time fee to participate	\$130
Spring Showcase Recital Participation Fee	2	One time fee to participate	\$125
Master Classes	**	Classes with guest teachers – if payment is required the class is optional	\$25-\$45
Team Warm-Up	3	Students who need a new warm-up jacket **depends on jacket option purchased by dancer	\$85-\$200
Jewelry	3	Typically, just earrings	\$10-\$15
Make-Up/Hair Products	3	Pricing dependent upon family/dancer	
Costumes	3	Per costume for each routine dancer is in	\$100-\$350
Costume Deposits	3	Deposit #1 (first half of costumes, per costume)	\$95
		Deposit #2 (second half of costumes, per costume)	\$95
Tights	3	Competition (outside source, per tight)	\$10-\$30
		Nutcracker and Recital (purchased through studio, per tight)	\$10-\$15
Shoes	**	Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Hip Hop, Musical Theatre, etc; dependent upon dancer	
End of the Year Party/Awards Night	**	Event celebrating our season and our dancers (per person fee)	\$50-\$70

NZ TotZ/Ballet Expressenz Letter of Commitment

(COPY TO KEEP)

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 2024-25 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 \$25 will be added to any late payments. A \$35 bank fee will be assessed for a non-sufficient funds payment/canceled/returned payment, as well as a corresponding late fee of \$25. It is each parent's responsibility to be aware of fees due, schedule changes, etc. We suggest coming into 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. **Families are required to pay full August-June tuition.***

_____Initial

Your commitment to this program means you will be respectful to all teachers and teammates at all times. We will not tolerate racism, inappropriate and unkind social media posts (private or public), or bullying of any kind, dishonesty, from dancer to dancer, dancer to parent, parent to dancer, or parent to parent. If a dancer is dismissed or quits from the program, I understand that there will be NO REFUND on any fees and/or payments.

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.

If dancer/family were to be dismissed and/or quits Totz no refunds will be given, this includes and is not limited to costumes, costume fees, tuition, privates, performance fees and competitions fees. _____Initial

I have read the above information and will be responsible for my child's account and activity requirements. I will follow the rules, policies and procedures of the studio as outlined in the NZ Totz Handbook. _____Initial

PLEASE CHECK BEFORE SIGNING!

I have read the company handbook and agree to the rules set forth within and the fees associated with this program. I understand my failure to comply or pay may result in my dancer being removed from the company.

Parent signature: _____

Parent printed name: _____

Dancer printed name: _____ Date: _____

Please return this signed agreement to the front desk by July 29, 2024. Please complete one form for each of your children who have accepted placement in The NZ TotZ.

Classes will begin on Monday, August 5, 2024. Mandatory TotZ Zoom Meeting Tuesday, July 30, 2024

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