

## Pointe Shoe Policy

Dancers desiring to go on pointe should understand the seriousness and dedication that are required to advance to this level of technique. ECHO School of Dance believes in a conservative approach when it comes to pointe work and we will not put any student on pointe, no matter how great the desire, if she is not ready.

Generally, students will start pre-pointe lessons at the age of 9 or 10. Students must be enrolled in at least two technique classes at ESD to begin pre-pointe/pointe. Students must show their commitment to pre-pointe work before they will be considered candidates for pointe shoes.

Dancers who have studied seriously for at least four years at a pre-professional level are considered candidates for pointe work with their instructors' recommendation. Age is not the sole factor governing when a student will get her pointe shoes, and no student should feel they "deserve" pointe shoes simply because they meet the minimum age or technique requirements. It is never too late to put a dancer on pointe, but doing so too early can have detrimental affects on her progress as well as her physical development. Placement on pointe is based on technical ability, anatomical development, strength and maturity. We ask that parents do not purchase pointe shoes until directed by the dance instructor to do so. We highly recommend getting fitted for shoes at a dance store (e.g. Love 2 Dance, Maysco Dance Supply or Nelsons School Supply). You may need to call ahead for an appointment. Ordering online is not recommended for beginning pointe dancers.

It is studio policy that the students have their pointe shoes checked for proper fit by one of our studio's experienced instructors **before** they have the ribbons and elastic sewn onto the shoe. Once the shoes are sewn and have been worn, they cannot be returned. We want to help you avoid wasting money on a shoe that could hurt or discourage your dancer.

ESD's instructors reserve the right to take any student off pointe who do not meet and maintain the requirements. Such cases might include insufficient number of technique classes per week, excessive absences, physical limitations, or lack of motivation. We recommend that parents with children aspiring to take pointe read "The Pointe Shoe Book: Shoes, Training & Technique", by Sarah Schlesinger and Janice Barringer, available through online bookstores.

Remember, pointe shoes should never be given to children or young dancers who have not been instructed to purchase a pair. They are not toys; they are an important (and beautiful) piece of dance equipment.

Please feel free to schedule a meeting with your student's instructor if you have questions or concerns about your pre-pointe or pointe student.