

# WELCOME!

2024-2025

FINE ARTS CLUB™ HANDBOOK



## WELCOME TO THE CLUB!

Welcome to our Fine Arts Club™ Program - where imagination and creativity lead the way! Our Fine Arts Club offers dance, yoga, fitness, music, art, and drama classes exclusively to children 2 - 5 years of age. We look forward to moving and grooving with your child while educating and inspiring them through the fine arts. All activities are developmentally appropriate and allow children to develop social skills, body awareness, self-confidence, and routine. We are not a daycare or preschool, but rather a specialty fine arts program building physical, cognitive, social, and emotional awareness. We are so excited for you and your child!

## COMMUNICATION

We aim to respond to all inquiries within 48 hours. Our administrative team can be contacted at **780-739-0227** or by emailing [tarynsdancecompany@gmail.com](mailto:tarynsdancecompany@gmail.com) **(general studio inquiries, payment, registration)** or [laurenjc.tdc@gmail.com](mailto:laurenjc.tdc@gmail.com) **(fine arts club program inquiries)**

Our primary means of communication is email. You will receive monthly newsletters and important information via email, so please ensure you have provided the studio with an up-to-date email address that is regularly checked. In the event that you do not receive them, we kindly ask you to notify our office at your earliest convenience.

## 2024-2025 PROGRAM DATES

**'PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR TUITION INFORMATION'**

**Fall 12-week Session:** Sept 10 - Dec 5, 2024 (no classes during Fall Break: Nov 11-15)

**Winter 12-week Session:** Jan 7 - March 27, 2025

**June 4-week Session:** June 3 - 26, 2025

The Fine Arts Club™ classes will not run during Black Gold School Division fall, winter, and spring breaks.



## PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

**Age 2-3 – Mini Movers: Wednesdays 9:15-11:15 am (Age 2 by session start date)**

**Fall session: Sept 11 - Dec 4, 2024**

**Winter session: Jan 8 - Mar 26, 2025**

Mini Movers allows children to start off on the right foot moving and grooving while exploring basic concepts and encouraging social development. This level is ideal for children that are new to unparented programs, or have a little experience in being away from caregivers. Our fun and active 2- 3-year old program helps kids develop routine and comfort with being away from caregivers. Our program fosters talents and interests through theme-based fine arts activities, while also focusing on learning through play. Skills progress throughout the session as children gain confidence and grow in body and mind. Children do not need to be potty trained.

**Age 3-5 – Little Movers: Tues and Thurs 9:15-11:15 am (Age 3 by session start date)**

**Fall session: Sept 10 - Dec 5, 2024**

**Winter session: Jan 7 - Mar 27, 2025**

Little Movers builds on the skills learned in Mini Movers (though not a prerequisite). This level is appropriate for children who have successful experience in unparented activities, or high confidence in being separated. Our age 3-5 program is your child's opportunity to explore the fine arts while nurturing talents, skills, and confidence at a young age. Students engage in activities individually and with others, refine movements, expand cognitive abilities, and develop artistic abilities. As we introduce new and familiar topics, children learn through their bodies to remember in their minds! Children must be fully daytime potty trained.

## DAILY SCHEDULE

**\*\*Flexible and subject to change based on dynamics/interests of children\*\***

9:15 - 9:30 am: Free Play/Themed Activity Options

9:30 - 9:45: Welcome/Theme Time: question of the day, surprise box, and rhyme/song warm-up

9:45 - 10:05: Dance, Fitness, Yoga/Stretching

10:05 - 10:20: Bathroom Break and Snack Time

10:15 - 10:45: Art/Sensory Activity & Free Play

10:45 - 11:00: Music & Drama

11:00 - 11:15: Storytime, Calendar, Weather, Letter and Number Review, Progress/Self-reflection Reward Chart



## ATTIRE, SNACK + MATERIALS POLICY

Please label all items and belongings brought to the studio with your child's name.

Children need to wear a comfortable outfit that will allow them to move around. Jeans are not permitted and skirts must be worn with leggings underneath. We ask that you please send your child with an extra set of clothes every class – spills, and accidents do happen. \*\*If in diapers or pull-ups, please send a few along with wipes.

All students are required to have clean, non-marking indoor shoes such as ballet slippers, Robeez slippers, or runners. Bare feet are also acceptable in some circumstances.

Children will be taken to the bathroom for routine potty breaks if they are potty trained or actively working towards this goal at home. For our 3-5 year old classes, children must be potty trained. We kindly ask that all parents take their child to the bathroom before class to set them up for success.

Please pack along a nut-free snack(s) and a water bottle for your child to enjoy during snack time. (No juice boxes – reusable drink containers only with water). 1-3 types of finger foods are best – teachers will help open up containers, but children need to be able to feed themselves during their 15-minute snack time.

## DROP OFF + PICK UP

Please stay with your child until the class begins. Studio rooms will be opened two minutes before class starts – we cannot take children prior to this, as the teachers are setting up for the day. Taryn's Dance Company is not responsible for children before/after their class and we kindly ask you to be diligent and on time. We also ask that your children are picked up in a timely fashion after their class ends and that if you are running late, please phone the office at 780-739-0227 (if no one picks up that phone, please text **780-953-3843**). If someone else will pick your child up, please notify the teacher at drop-off. A parent or caregiver must be available via cell phone in case we need to have your child picked up for any reason.

**Late Pick-Up Policy:** If you are more than 5 minutes late in picking up your child, a dollar per minute will be charged and added to fees owed in your Dance Studio Pro parent account.



## PHOTOS, WAIVERS + VIDEOS

We will be taking pictures throughout the year to celebrate your child's learning and growth. Taryn's Dance Company holds the right to take videos and photos which may be used on social media, website, and in-house printed materials. If you do not wish for your child to be photographed or included in videos, please notify your child's teacher and our administrative staff.

## INTEGRATION POLICY

Our goal is to ensure your child feels safe, confident, and inspired and we have outlined our integration policy below.

**First Class** – Parents are invited to attend the first 30 minutes of class. If your child has siblings, they are more than welcome to attend as well. Children feed off their parent's energy – when the parent is relaxed, the child is more likely to be relaxed. Teachers will lead a 15-30 minute welcome orientation and connect with the parents and collect all personal profiles. This is your opportunity to get to know the teachers and connect with them. After the orientation is complete, parents will be kindly asked to leave and children will explore and interact with one another. The goal is to set your child up for success and build trust and confidence.

**Second Class** – Parents are welcome to come in the room for the first 15 minutes to help their child settle. After 15 minutes we ask that all parents say goodbye to their child and leave the studio. This will allow us to build trust with your child.

**Third Class** – Parents are welcome to bring the child into the classroom and have free play with their child for 5 minutes.

**Fourth Class** – Parents say goodbye in the lobby area and teachers bring the students back into the room. If your child cries, it is best to leave them with us so we can redirect and build rapport with them. If your child is still unsettled after 30 minutes, we will call you and provide you with an update. At this time, we can come up with a suitable plan.



## TIPS FOR SAYING GOOD-BYE TO YOUR CHILD: EXPLAIN, ASSURE + LOVE

- 1) Explain that you are going away and that you will come back
- 2) Assure them that you love them and that they will have fun
- 3) Give them a hug, say goodbye and proceed to leave – short goodbyes are best

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES + THEMES

Students will enjoy a different set of activities each day, and a different theme every 2-3 weeks for age 3-5, and every month with age 2-3, providing an academic curriculum to assist with their learning. The goal of the program is to enhance your child's overall development including gross and fine motor skills and improve social, cognitive, and emotional awareness. We use an integrated approach to learning and incorporate theme-based lesson plans so students get to feel it in their bodies so they can remember it in their minds.

When discipline is required, our teachers use a positive redirection approach and encourage the children to make good choices. When children choose not to participate in the planned activities, they are instructed to observe the class from the table or side of room, so they are safe and not a distraction to the other students, and can still learn in the process.

Please note that we observe and assess all of our students during the first few weeks and may make recommendations to transfer to “Mini” or “Little” levels if appropriate. If there is a teacher recommendation that your child is not ready for our program, we will recommend that you join us at a later date and will provide you with a credit.

## SHOW DAYS

Fall Show Days – Mini Movers: Dec 6, 2024/ Little Movers: Dec 7, 2024

Winter Show Days – Mini Movers: Mar 27, 2025/ Little Movers: Mar 28, 2025

Parents are invited to come and watch our mini showcase at the end of each session, followed by a wrap-up party with snacks, art, and playtime. Families will be asked to contribute an item for this potluck-style celebration. The celebration show and party will occur in the last hour of their scheduled class.

**Children come at 9:15 am, and guests join from 10:00 -11:15 am**



## STAFF INFO

### LAUREN CARLETON – FINE ARTS CLUB DIRECTOR/LEAD TEACHER

Lauren grew up in Edmonton, AB, training competitively from a young age in various styles of dance - jazz, tap, ballet, and contemporary. She further developed a love of dance, technique, and overall fine arts exposure through the program at Victoria School of Performing and Visual Arts from grades 8-12.

Taking a break from dance, she completed a general Bachelor of Arts degree at Taylor University College and Seminary, and found her calling after working in out-of-school care and as a nanny— she wanted to better understand the youngest children! In New Jersey, USA, she completed an Early Childhood Education diploma and Business Certificate, then moved back to Canada to begin her career in Early Learning. While working as a licensed (and now private) Day Home Educator from 2013 - present, she began dancing again in adult classes, and her children started dance classes. She was smitten with her children's enthusiasm and energy toward movement and rhythm and wanted to be a part of that, and therefore decided to combine her knowledge and experience with young children with her love of dance.

With over 22 years experience in working with young children, and having three of her own kids, Lauren continually looks for opportunities to learn more about trends, Early Education strategies, and learning methods. She is excited to bring the Fine Arts Club™ to life at TDC in Leduc, and use her skills and passion to share dance, yoga, fitness, music, art, and drama with your little ones, and aim to provide developmentally appropriate and exciting programming to young children!

#### *Credentials/Certifications:*

- BA: General Arts
- AAS: Early Childhood Education
- Business Management Certificate
- Standard Childcare First Aid/CPR Level B
- Level 3 Early Childhood Educator
- Intellidance Method Certified Teacher
- Acrobatic Arts - Preschool Acrodance Certified
- Studio Fine Arts Club - Early Childhood Fundamentals/Teacher Certification



## OFFICE HOURS

Our current office hours can be found on [tarynsdancecompany.com](http://tarynsdancecompany.com) under “About TDC” and then “FAQs”. **\*Please note that during the spring and summer months, our office hours vary and are quite reduced. To best contact us at any time, send an e-mail!\***

## QUESTIONS

We like to have open communication with you! If no one is in the office and you have questions regarding general studio operations, registration, and payments, please reach out by calling **780-739-0227** or email [tarynsdancecompany@gmail.com](mailto:tarynsdancecompany@gmail.com). If you have any questions about your child or regarding the Fine Arts Club specifically, please reach out by emailing [laurenjc.tdc@gmail.com](mailto:laurenjc.tdc@gmail.com).

## THANK YOU

Thank you for joining our Fine Arts Club™. This is a great stepping-stone for your child's development.

We also offer 10-week Intellidance™ sessions for ages 3 months - 5 years old (caregiver-assisted for infants to age 4/ unassisted age 3-5), and year-long and sessional dance classes for all ages, should you be interested in enrolling your child for another class. Our mission is to inspire growth and we hope you grow with us!





