

Beginner Irish Dance lessons at the Carle School

How old does my child need to be to take Beginner Irish dancing lessons at the Carle School?

At the Carle School, we start taking beginners between the ages of 2 and 4 years. We have a wonderful 30-minute tots program that introduces the little ones to the basic fundamentals of Irish dancing. Students learn to point their toes, how to skip and do skip 23's, how to form lines and circles and how to work with other children in movement.

In our 45-minute Beginner classes, we accept students aged 4-7 years. We break up the beginners depending on the average age of the attendees. In this class, dancers learn the basic movements of Irish dancing, skip 23's and sevens, as well as reels and jigs.

My dancer is older than the average beginner. Is it too late for him or her to begin Irish dancing and will he or she need to be in the beginner class?

You are never too old to experience the fun that Irish dancing has to offer! We have MANY dancers that have started in the double digits. This is a wonderful time for dancers to begin, as their coordination, strength and physical ability allows them to pick things up quickly. Dancers who are older than 7 years typically begin in an Advanced Beginner class after they spend a week or 2 with beginners (to pick up the basics and avoid feeling overwhelmed).

What does my dancer need to wear to class?

Proper attire for Irish dance class is shorts (we need to be able to see the dancers knees), t-shirt, socks and black ballet slippers. Advanced beginners are required to purchase soft shoes, but are not required to have them the first few classes. We like to make sure they enjoy the dancing before we require any major investments.

If we sign up for Irish dance lessons at the Carle School, what are the costume requirements?

At the Carle School, our Beginner and Advanced Beginner costumes are the same: a black A-Line dress with embroidery. The cost is about \$100 new. The good news: Dancers wear this for at least two years. The other good news: You can sell the costume when your daughter out grows it! While it may seem like a big investment, she will definitely get wear out of it and you will get money back when you sell it!