

EMERALD CITY DANCE EXPLOSION

ALL STARS 2025



407 Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29649

864-993-7807
ecdeallstars@gmail.com

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Welcome to another exciting year at Emerald City Dance Explosion! Each season brings new opportunities, new growth, and new memories, and this year's ALL STARS theme, "Be the Change" captures the very heart of what dance can inspire.

At ECDE, we believe that dance is more than just movement. It's a way to shape character, build confidence, and spark change within ourselves and in the world around us. Whether it's a dancer trying a new step for the first time, a class cheering each other on, or our All Stars showing us the power of inclusion, we see every day how small moments create big impact.

[Be the Change](#) reminds us that each dancer has the ability to influence their community with kindness, leadership, and courage. As you watch our students shine on stage, we hope you'll see not only their talent, but also their growth as individuals learning to make a difference.

Thank you for trusting us with your dancers and for being part of our ECDE family. Together, let's embrace this season as a chance to be the change - in the studio, on the stage, and beyond!

See you in dance class!
Ms. Emily

Communication



PHONE: 864-993-7807



EMAIL: ecdeallstars@gmail.com



WEBSITE: www.emeraldcitydanceexplosion.com



FACBOOK: Suzy Connolly Shaw



INSTAGRAM: [@emeraldcitydanceexplosion](https://www.instagram.com/emeraldcitydanceexplosion)

The best way to contact us is via email. You can also reach us by call, text, and social media messaging.

Teachers are not available for questions during regularly scheduled class times.

Important announcements and reminders will be posted on the lobby doors, website, social media and sent via email.



Faculty & Staff

Suzy Shaw, Owner/Director of Emerald City Dance Explosion

Suzy founded Emerald City Dance Explosion in 2001 and has grown it into a thriving school that provides high-quality dance training and meaningful performance opportunities.

Trained extensively in all dance genres by leading industry professionals, Suzy was a member of the nationally ranked company The Southern Strutt in Columbia, SC in high school and then the Lander Dance Company during college. While a student at Lander University, she continued her training and education abroad in England, studying theatre and dance at Plymouth University.

As a teacher and choreographer, Suzy emphasizes both artistry and the well-being of her students. She is deeply committed to creating a safe and supportive environment, is knowledgeable of childhood development and its role in dance education, and the unique needs of young performers. She also stays current with industry trends, critiques, and evolving practices to ensure her students receive the highest quality training.

Her choreography has received numerous awards and industry recognitions, with her work earning acclaim at regional and national competitions. Under her guidance, ECDE students have become national title holders, professional dancers, and respected educators in the field. With more than two decades of leadership, Suzy continues to inspire dancers to pursue excellence both on and off the stage.

Emily Burch, ECDE All Stars Director

Emily is from Greenwood, SC and joined ECDE when its doors opened in 2001 as a student. She trained at ECDE throughout its early years and has remained on faculty since graduating in 2007. Emily attended Lander University, where she was a member and president of the Lander Dance Company. After graduating from Lander, Emily moved to Johnson City, TN to pursue her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. While in school, she continued taking dance classes and training, keeping her connection to the art form alive. After three years in Johnson City, she returned home to Greenwood, where she worked as a staff physical therapist for six years, treating both pediatrics and adults, before moving into her current role as a clinical manager.

Recognizing the need for an inclusive program for dancers of all abilities, Emily partnered with Suzy Shaw to launch the All Stars program in 2019. Since then, she has continued to lead All Stars and its competitive division, Star Magic. In addition to directing these programs, Emily teaches a wide range of classes at ECDE, sharing her knowledge and love of dance with students of all ages. With her background in physical therapy, she brings a unique perspective to her teaching, integrating anatomy, injury prevention, and a focus on healthy movement.

Emily's greatest passion lies in making dance accessible to every child. She is committed to giving every kid the chance to dance, the chance to be a star!

Volunteers & Support

Volunteers & Dance Buddies



Each participant in ALL STARS is paired with a dedicated dance buddy. This is a volunteer who dances alongside them, offers encouragement, and helps them feel confident in class. In addition, we have a wonderful team of volunteers working behind the scenes to ensure each class runs smoothly and safely. These volunteers assist with everything from class transitions and props to performance day preparation, creating a supportive environment where every dancer can thrive.

You can feel confident knowing that your child is surrounded by caring helpers who are committed to making their dance experience positive, fun, and safe.

Community Support

The ALL STARS program is made possible through the generosity of our community sponsors and donors. Their ongoing support helps cover the costs of class supplies, t-shirts, performance medals, and other program expenses, allowing us to offer this special opportunity at no cost to participating families. We are deeply grateful for their partnership in making sure every dancer has the chance to shine.



MASTER CALENDAR

WEEK 1

Friday, October 17th @ ECDE

Group 1: 4:15-4:45

Group 2: 5:00-5:45

Group 3 Tap: 5:45-6:15

WEEK 2

Friday, October 24th @ ECDE

Group 1: 4:15-4:45

Group 2: 5:00-5:45

Group 3 Tap: 5:45-6:15

WEEK 3

Friday, October 31st @ ECDE

*Dancers may wear their Halloween costumes to dance!

Group 1: 4:15-4:45

Group 2: 5:00-5:45

Group 3 Tap: 5:45-6:15

WEEK 4

Friday, November 7th @ ECDE

Group 1: 4:15-4:45

Group 2: 5:00-5:45

Group 3 Tap: 5:45-6:15

WEEK 5

Friday, November 14th @ ECDE

Group 1: 4:15-4:45

Group 2: 5:00-5:45

Group 3 Tap: 5:45-6:15

PERFORMANCE DAY

Sunday, November 16th @ Lander University



Studio Policies

COST

- There is no cost to participate in ALL STARS. We are very grateful for local organizations to help cover costs associated with the program!

WHAT TO WEAR

- There is no specific dress code for dance class. Wear something comfortable you can move in!
- To limit excessive dirt and debris on the custom dance floor, **we prefer dancers to remove street shoes**, if able, when in the dance studio room. (Parents, caregivers, and volunteers, too!) Barefoot is most preferred, as socks can become slippery at times. If your child needs to wear shoes, that is okay - we just ask you ensure the bottoms are free of grass and dirt before class!

CLASS SESSIONS

- **NEW THIS YEAR!** The lobby door will remain locked until the start of each class. *Parents should wait with their dancer(s) in the car or on the sidewalk until their designated class time.* ECDE staff will unlock the door and assist with dismissal/arrival between classes.
- Parents and guardians are welcome to observe the class and participate as needed. To ensure everyone's comfort, we kindly ask that each dancer is accompanied by no more than 1-2 adults, due to limited studio space.
 - For the safety of all participants and to ensure a focused environment, siblings and friends are not permitted to join the dance class. This class is specifically designed for dancers with special needs, and we want to create an atmosphere that prioritizes their individual needs and experiences.
- If your dancer prefers to attend class independently, we kindly ask that a parent or guardian remain close by (such as in the parking lot, on the sidewalk, or in the lobby) so we can reach you quickly if needed.
- Toileting: Volunteers and dance buddies will not be available to assist dancers in the restroom should they need to go during class time. If your dancer needs assistance with toileting, a parent/caregiver will be asked to assist them and then return to class!

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY

- ECDE staff may occasionally take photos/videos during class sessions and performances for promotional purposes and advertisements. If you do not wish for your dancer to be included, please contact us directly.

What to Expect

The ALL STARS program is thoughtfully designed for children and young adults with special needs, featuring a curriculum tailored to meet specific goals and objectives. Our primary aim is to provide a joyful and enriching experience for all participants. We focus on promoting physical activity, building self-confidence, enhancing social skills, and offering a creative outlet for expression.

- *Structure:* Class time is structured to create an inviting and safe space for all students. Instruction methods vary based on needs and may include visual aids, verbal cues, and hands-on guidance. Routine and repetition is established from the first class and carried throughout program.
- *Participation:* Each dancer's unique needs and abilities are recognized and respected. Our instructors and buddies work closely with participants to tailor the experience, ensuring that everyone can participate comfortably and meaningfully. We foster a positive and inclusive atmosphere where all participants are encouraged to express themselves and celebrate their achievements. The focus is on personal growth, creativity, and enjoyment rather than competition.
- *Accessibility:* Our studio is equipped to accommodate all mobility aids and other assistive devices. Class activities are designed so that all dancers are able to participate, and volunteers are available to assist dancers in wheelchairs or needing extra support in standing.
- *Social Interaction:* The class promotes socialization and teamwork, helping participants build connections and friendships with peers. Activities are designed to enhance communication and cooperation in a supportive setting.

We wholeheartedly want everyone to have the opportunity to dance, but we must also ensure a safe and positive environment for all participants. Therefore, aggressive behavior or actions that create a potentially unsafe environment will not be tolerated. Dancers may be temporarily removed from class to regroup, and in serious cases, may be dismissed from the program. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Performance

Sunday, November 16, 2025 @ 3:00pm

Lander University

Dancers will perform for their family and friends at the conclusion of our season. Additional information with dancer arrival times will be sent out at a later date.

Dancers will receive an ALL STARS t-shirt! They should wear their t-shirt and black pants for the performance.

This is a FREE event! Invite all your friends and family to come see their STAR shine on stage!!

