

Guidelines for the Participation of Children in Branch Classes and Events

The following guidelines for children* attending classes and events sponsored by the Boston Branch of the RSCDS are meant to work in conjunction with:

- [Policy and Procedures for the Boston Branch](#)
- [Safer Spaces](#) webpage for the RSCDS, especially the topics “Code of Conduct” and “Safeguarding and Child Protection”

*Children are defined as anyone under the age of majority in the state where the class/event is held (18 years of age for all states within the Boston Branch).

Also check out the [Scottish Country Dancing Etiquette](#) poster that you can print out and post at your class or event.

In order to promote a safe dance environment:

1. Children attending branch classes and/or events must be accompanied by a parent or a designated guardian.
2. Teachers and event chairs accepting children into Boston Branch classes and events should familiarize themselves with the Policies and Procedures for the Boston Branch and the documents found on the RSCDS website under Safer Spaces.

Teachers and event chairs should follow these best practices when working with children:

- a. Always work in an open environment with at least one other adult present (avoid one-to-one or unobservable situations).
- b. Deal immediately with abusive behavior (e.g. bullying, ridiculing or taunting).
- c. Obtain parental/guardian permission for any photos taken.
- d. Ensure there is a fully maintained first aid box on site. If necessary, teachers and event chairs can apply to the Executive Committee for funding for first aid boxes.

Should you see, hear or have any concerns regarding any child participating in a Boston Branch class/event, please contact the parent or designated guardian who is present at the event.