



## What To Expect at Auditions

We are often asked what the audition process is like at StarLight, and, although we sometimes change things up a bit to meet the demands of the show, the following is a general guideline as to what to expect the process to be like.

1. The first class/audition begins with warming up, playing some games and generally learning to feel comfortable with each other and with the directors. The students may be asked to sing a line, all together, then separately, from the show, just so we get a general feel for their voices.
2. The choreographer then teaches a dance combination to the whole group. After everyone has had a chance to learn it, they will audition in groups of 6-10 students. Each group will have two or three opportunities to perform the combination for the director and the choreographer.
3. Each child is assigned an audition partner and will be given a scene to work on for auditions. The pair will exchange phone numbers, and we highly encourage them to get together before their audition to practice and if possible, even memorize their scene. The less the child needs to read, the more they can put into showing us what they can do! If appropriate, they should learn both parts in the scene.
4. Each pair is assigned an individual audition time (usually scheduled over several evenings) to come to the StarLight studios to audition for our casting panel. At their individual audition, the pair will perform their scene one or more times, depending on what the casting panel needs to see.
5. Each child will then be asked to sing about 30 seconds of a song of their choice. They will not be accompanied, and no cds or tapes are allowed. We want to hear them sing *a capella*.
6. Once all of the children have been seen, we may have enough information to cast some roles. For other roles, we need to see more *Do not assume that you have not been cast in a part if you do not receive a callback*. We will call to schedule a callback audition for those children we need to see again. They will be informed which parts to prepare for and which scenes to learn. At callbacks, everyone comes at the same time. The callback audition will last much longer than the initial audition because we want to see them work in different groups.
7. Once the callbacks are finished, the casting panel goes to work! Our casting panel is made up of 5 or 6 people, and they all have an equal say in casting decisions. It is a laborious process, and we take it very seriously. In addition to “how each child did,” we must consider many other variables that the children often do not know about, such as:

**Conflicts:** Sometimes, the child who might make the best match for a particular character will have to miss too many rehearsals, or just one KEY rehearsal and we have to decide NOT to cast that child for the part.

**Appearance:** Sometimes, we have to consider the overall look of some scenes, and because of other casting decisions, a child who does an exceptional job, just doesn’t “look” right with the other actors in the scene.

**Attitude:** Sometimes a child may not do their absolute best in an audition, but we can see by their attitude that they are willing to work exceptionally hard and will cooperate with what the director and the choreographer needs from them. In these cases, we sometimes “take a chance” and give a child an opportunity to shine. Of course, the opposite can happen as well. The most talented children, may be cast in the ensemble if we see that their attitude or behavior might make them difficult to work with.

8. The cast list, along with the production calendar, will be posted in the Director’s Notes section of the website, generally the day before the first rehearsal.