



Clockwise from top left: Charleya East poses; anxious feet wait a turn to dance; students walk through dance steps; East raises her arm signaling the next step; East adjusts a ballerina's shoe.

# Tiny Dancers

Story and photos by Senior Airman Michelle Michaud  
*Crossroads photographer*

On stage, they look like an Anne Geddes post card. Some are still getting the hang of walking let alone dancing. Standing in frills of pink and white, seeing them sets a Tchaikovsky melody in onlookers' heads.

Tiny dancers, daughters of airmen across Lajes, clustered inside the community activities center.

With eager eyes the cherubs watched Christina East -- today an adjuster of tights, tier of shoelaces and instructor of steps -- show them pliés and pirouettes. It's the start of something, East said

"Ballet helps them develop discipline, which is an important factor to this art of dance," she said.

Each plié and pirouette builds developing muscles. Each leap builds endurance. Every future class is another tiny step forward.

"The art of dance is a way for children to get involved with others and build on to their creativity," East said.