



5 Things Every Parent Should Know Before Choosing a Dance Studio

If most dance studios seem to have qualified, friendly teachers, experience teaching children, and a big show at the end of the year, aren't they all pretty much the same? Does it really matter which place you decide to enroll at? Yes. There are 5 main things that can make a huge difference in the quality of instruction your child receives, the amount of extra work and hassles the parents must deal with, and the overall enjoyment and satisfaction of being involved with a dance program. Here are 5 things every parent should consider before deciding on a dance studio for their child.

1. WHAT TYPE OF DANCE FLOOR IS USED?

Dance is a very physical activity that requires a lot of jumping, which can put stress on bones and joints. Most dance footwear does not provide any cushioning or support, so the shock of dance movement can place a lot of pressure on the knees and back of a dancer. The best way to prevent potential injury is by choosing a studio with a professional "floating floor". A floating floor is a dance floor that rests on a system of high-density foam, to absorb the shock of jumping. A high-density foam base is superior to a "sprung" floor, which usually consists of a wood structure built on the regular floor.

The top layer of the dance floor is also an important factor. A vinyl composite "marley" floor is accepted worldwide as the best surface layer for recreational to professional dance. A marley floor allows dancers to slide with a degree of "controlled slip," but is not slippery, so there is less risk of slips and falls. Very few studios use professional marley floors because of the expense involved, and usually opt for a regular floor tile for a studio floor.

Our studio has a floating floor that has over 700 high-density foam blocks under the floor surface and a marley top surface. Our special floor helps reduce the risk of injuries and allows students to dance longer without getting tired.

2. WHAT IS THE SIZE OF THE CLASS?

If the dance class has fewer students in it, each child will receive more personalized attention, learn more, and have more fun. With younger students it is easier for a teacher to maintain control over the class and make sure each student understands the concepts and instructions. Our smaller class size allows students to get more individual instruction from teachers, and as a result, progress at a faster level than in a large class environment. Our smaller class size also ensures that the teacher can correct any problems before they turn into bad habits or improper techniques. Class size is dependent on age group, instructor, and amount of student helpers.

3. CAN I GET IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE?

In many studios the teacher or studio owner conducts classes and does the administration. By trying to do both jobs at once, the class may suffer as the teacher has to use class time for customer service issues, or the studio may have no customer service available if the teacher is in a class. In order to have a good experience, it is important to choose a studio that can assist you with details like costumes or schedules, even if a teacher is occupied with a class. Our studios have office staff on hand during regular class times so you can get immediate assistance.

4. CAN I OBSERVE MY CHILD'S DANCE CLASS?

We know that many of you like to see the progress your child is making, so we have designed an observation room from which you may watch your child for the duration of the lesson. Our state of the art facility has a video camera that focuses on the dance lesson and it is displayed on a TV monitor located in our observation room. This allows parents to see the lesson without being visible to the children.

5. WHAT STYLES AND METHODS ARE TAUGHT?

We offer a wide range of dance styles for you to choose from, and our teachers are highly qualified with varied training and teaching methods. We offer competitive classes for those dancers who wish to take dance to a higher commitment level by focusing and working on more technical skills, as well as non-competitive or recreational classes for those students who like to dance for exercise, fun and leisure. You can find out more details about the variety of styles we offer by viewing our dance curriculum.