



Four Things Every Parent Should Know Before Choosing a Dance Studio

If most dance studios seem to have qualified, friendly teachers, experience teaching children, 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 4 main things that can make a huge difference in the quality of instruction your child receives, and the overall enjoyment and satisfaction of being involved with a dance program. Here are 4 things that 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 against potential injury is by choosing a studio with a floating floor to absorb the shock on the joints. The top layer of the 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. Few studios use professional Marley floors because of the expense involved and usually opt for a regular floor tile for a studio floor. Our studios have floating floors and a Marley top surface. Our special floors help reduce the risk of injuries.
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 sizes make sure that no fundamental concepts are being missed. A smaller class size allows our teachers to ensure that students are not developing bad habits or improper technique.

Our studio limits all of our classes (ages 8 and up) to a maximum of 15 students and students up to age 7 to a maximum of 12 students.

3. **CAN I GET IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE?**
In many studios the teacher or the studio owner conducts classes and does the administration. By trying to do two 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. 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 in a class. Our studio has office staff on hand during class times, so you can get immediate assistance.
4. **HOW DO I KNOW I WILL RECEIVE QUALITY INSTRUCTION?**
It's always important to make sure that your child's instructors are qualified. Dance instructors are not licensed in this country – anyone can claim to be able to teach your child to dance. Look for someone who is an advocate of continuing education and is a member certified by such national organizations such as Dance Masters of America or Dance Educators of America, has professional dance training, or holds a degree in dance education. Any of these is a good indication that the instructor knows what to teach, when to teach it, and how it should be taught. A good school will follow a carefully designed syllabus of instruction in the teaching and well being of its students. Our faculty attends continuing education workshops throughout the year and is certified by Dance Masters of America, University trained or studying for their exams with DMA.