

4 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? Yes. There are 4 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 4 things that every parent should consider before deciding on a dance studio for their child.

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 also allows our teachers to ensure that students are not developing bad habits or improper technique. Our studio limits all of our classes (ages 6 and up) to a maximum of just 12 students per class. With our kindergarten dance classes (ages 3 - 5) we limit all classes to a maximum of just 6 students per class.

What are the "extras" required for the year end show?

Most studios put on a year end show in a theatre with a professional setting. Students that perform in the show must have a costume for their dance number. Some studios may require parents to sew their child's costumes, or pay extra and the parents must find their own seamstress to do the sewing. This can be inconvenient and frustrating for parents who are busy or can't sew. Most studios also require parents to purchase tickets for the recital performance night.

Our studios use our own professional seamstress to sew and alter the costumes, so parents do not have to worry about any costume hassles. Our studio also gives each parent 2 free tickets for our year-end show. This way you as a parent will not be faced with any extra work or expenses. The opportunity to perform for others is a great source of self esteem for our children.

* Parents also love that our shows are very tasteful, artistic and of tolerable & moderate length.

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 all regular class times, so you can get immediate assistance.

How qualified are the instructors?

Dance is a physically demanding activity and if taught incorrectly it can have harmful effects the way a dancer's body moves and grows. Some studios find it too expensive and time consuming to employ qualified instructors, and in some cases graduate unqualified students up to instructor positions. These business practices can lead to dancers that have injuries and poor technique. Our studio employs only instructors with degrees in dance and/or reputable teaching experience. Our teachers have extensively studied the correct way to teach all aspects of dance and pay special attention to technique and proper form. This ensures our students receive superb instruction while keeping their bodies healthy.