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4 THINGS EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW WHEN CHOOSING A STUDIO

When you are looking for a dance studio for your child, most studios seem to be pretty much the same. They all seem to have qualified, friendly teachers who are experienced in teaching children, choosing costumes, and delivering performances at the end of the year. As you decide which studio your dancer will attend, here are four things that every parent should consider before deciding.

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 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. This type of floor allows dancers to slide but is not slippery so there is less risk of slips and falls. Many studios opt for a regular floor tile for a studio floor versus a professional vinyl floor because of the expense involved.

All of our dance rooms have floating floors with foam under the floor surface and a vinyl top surface. These special floors help reduce the risk of injuries and allow 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 to make sure each student understands the concepts and instructions. Smaller class sizes help ensure that no fundamental concepts are being missed. A smaller class size also allows our teachers to make sure students are not developing bad habits or improper technique.

We make every effort to keep our instructor to student ratio 6 to 1 for ages 10 and under. If you notice that some of these classes have up to 12 students, please also note that there is a qualified assistant in addition to the instructor in the class.

3. Can I get immediate assistance and customer service?

In many studios the teacher or the studio owner conducts a large number of classes and does the administration. By conducting a large number of classes, 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.

4. What are the dance attire requirements?

Many studios require specific colors and shoes for each class level. The parent is then required to spend the time finding the correct apparel and shoes needed. This can be a frustrating task especially for new dance parents as they try to find a dance supply store and figure out exactly what they need.

We allow the students to express their own style within the realm of reason. While we do require a dress code for competition ballet, we offer a store on site where you can find all of your leotard, shoes, and tight requirements.