

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 at? 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.

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 "Marley Dance Floor".

The top layer of the dance floor is 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.

Both of our studios have a Marley top surface that is imported from England. Our special floors help reduce the risk of injuries and allow students to dance longer without getting tired.

2. HOW MANY TIMES WILL MY PRESCHOOL CHILD BE ON STAGE?

All PRESCHOOL & B/J/T students will learn technique throughout the year and will perform 2 different routines on stage at the year end recital gala. All PRESCHOOL & BJT students will get the chance to experience dancing 2 different routines on stage in a professional dance show.

3. WHAT ARE THE "EXTRAS" REQUIRED FOR THE YEAR END SHOW?

Most studios put on a year end show in a professional theatre. 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 very high costume prices 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.

Our studios use both a professional costume company from the USA and a local professional seamstress to sew and alter the costumes, so parents do not have to worry about any costume hassles.

4. 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 studios have office staff on hand during all regular class times, so you can get immediate assistance.