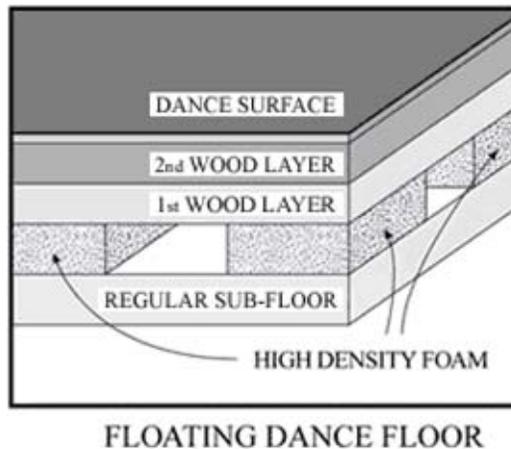


5 THINGS EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW BEFORE CHOOSING A DANCE ACADEMY

If most dance studios seem to have experience teaching children and qualified, friendly teachers, aren't they all pretty much the same? Does it really matter at which place you decide to enroll? **Yes!** There are five 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 superior dance program. Here are five things that every parent should consider before deciding on a Dance Academy (not just a Dance Studio) for his or her child.

1. What type of dance floor is used?

Dance is a 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 stress on the knees, joints and back of a dancer...especially as children are growing! The best way to guard against potential injury is to choose 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 a superior "sprung floor" which is used in professional Dance Academies where the safety and health of their dancers is of utmost importance.



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 and professional dance. Facilities such as the New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, the Royal Academy of Dance in London, England and Riverdance – The Touring Show all use Marley floors as their dance surface. A Marley floor allows dancers a "controlled slip" so there is less risk of sliding and falling. Very few studios use professional Marley floors because of the expense involved. They usually opt for a regular floor tile or wood surfaced studio flooring.

Here at the Academy, all of our 6 dance studios have floating floors with wall-to-wall, high-density foam under the floor surface and a Marley top surface. Our 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 a dance class has fewer students in it, each child receives more personalized attention, learns more, and has more fun. A limited class size for your student(s) makes it easier for the teacher to maintain a good class atmosphere. The Academy's policy of proper class sizes, based on age and experience, promotes fundamental concepts being learned correctly the first time. In this manner, no bad habits or improper technique is acquired.

Our studio limits beginning and intermediate classes to just 15 students per class. Our Pre-Ballet classes (ages 3-6) are limited to only 12 students per class. Most of the classes for our younger students also include a demonstrator who assists the teacher in skill demonstration and classroom management.

3. Are the music and movement choice age appropriate?

There are some songs on the popular music scene today that contain subject matter not appropriate for children. Similarly, some of the "moves" and costumes popular in dance today are more suggestive than is appropriate for children. There are, however, many songs, costumes, and movements available to young dancers today that uphold the dignity and respect due to each person.

The Academy strongly believes in music, movement and costuming suitable for age and level.

4. Can I get immediate assistance and customer service?

In many studios, the teacher or the studio owner conducts classes and handles the administration. By trying to do two jobs at once, the class may suffer as the teacher must use class time for customer service issues, or the studio may have no customer service available if the teacher is in 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. The Academy has office staff available Monday thru Saturday during all regular class times, so you can get immediate assistance.

5. What experience and level of training should instructors have to teach dance properly?

It is of utmost importance that all instructors are highly educated and experienced in the Art of Dance. Too often classes in studios are taught by teachers without proper credentials and training. At the Academy, our staff are Master Instructors with impeccable training and experience. Our Instructors are highly skilled in working with children of all ages, teaching a syllabus of dance that builds technical skills based on age and level of technical experience. From our Young Children's curriculum to our Advanced Pre-Professional Programs, the Academy has an outstanding staff ready to teach and train your dancer in the joy and love of movement through the Art of Dance.

Any other questions? Please speak to the Academy's Front Desk Staff. We strive to provide prompt answers /solutions to concerns regarding your dancer's training.