



WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN CHOOSING A DANCE STUDIO

Choosing a dance studio can be a difficult task! As a parent, your child's safety and happiness is a priority, as is the quality of dance education they receive. Today, anyone can open a dance studio and there is no governing body regulating dance studio operations! As with purchasing any product, it's important to do your research! Here is a quick checklist to consider when choosing the best dance studio for your family:

FACILITY:

- ✓ **Sprung Floors:** a good dance floor must have shock absorption. A poor floor can cause stress-related injuries such as fractures and irreversible damage to developing dancers.
- ✓ **Observation Tools:** A studio should have nothing to hide! Observation windows or live-feed monitors allow parents to see dancers' progression.

INSTRUCTORS:

- ✓ **Background:** Having a background in both performance and education lends itself well to technical training.
- ✓ **Variety:** In today's dance world, versatility is a necessity. Variety in teaching styles and backgrounds provides dancers with more opportunities and learning experiences.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ **Referrals:** Speak with trusted parents as to where their child dances, and what they value in the studio they attend.
- ✓ **Reviews:** Check Google, Facebook, and the studio's website for testimonials. Be sure testimonials are recent and coming from dance families, not friends and family of the studio owner.

STUDENT SAFETY:

- ✓ **Age-appropriateness:** Watch videos of performances to gather information about choreography, costuming, and music! These elements should always be age-appropriate!
- ✓ **Pointe work:** Ask when soft-pointe and pointe shoes are introduced to dancers. If dancers begin this work before the feet stop growing, permanent damage can be done.

PROGRAMMING:

- ✓ **Skill levels:** A good studio should accommodate beginners who dance for fun, as well as experienced dancers planning for dance at the post-secondary level.
- ✓ **Curriculum:** Be sure the studio belongs to multiple strong, modern dance organizations who provide quality technical training such as BATD, ADAPT, and ADTA.
- ✓ **Focused Classes:** Combo classes do not allow for timely progression. Classes that focus on one style allow the child to develop proper skills in each style.
- ✓ **Placement:** Dancers should be assessed before or at the beginning of a season and be placed appropriately for their age and skill level to ensure safety and success.

COST:

- ✓ **Uniforms:** Inquire as to what colour outfit is required of dancers, if the studio sells these items, and how much an outfit will cost.
- ✓ **Performance fees:** There should be no surprise fees for your family! Ask about costuming, recital tickets, photos, recital videography, and registration costs.