



Providing age appropriate
choreography, costumes and music

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4 Things Every Parent Should Know Before Choosing a Dance Studio

If most dance studios seem to have qualified, friendly, experienced teachers, 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 every parent should consider before deciding on a dance studio for their child.

1. Is it Age Appropriate?

Many families choose CDT for this reason. Our studio specializes in age appropriate choreography costumes and music. This is why our school is split into two divisions. In our children's division classes, we teach a creative movement based program to ensure enjoyment as well as education. Dancers in the school division are introduced and work to master technique concepts such as alignment, rotation of the legs, core strength, flexibility and much more. Our school syllabus ensures dancers are receiving consistent and physically appropriate technical challenges. Beyond the actual training, our school is very selective about the music we play in class as well as for our shows. Inappropriate material that may be suggestive or contains profanity is NEVER used. Our instructors are prohibited from choosing "belly" costumes and if a costume has shorts for bottoms, we double check that it has longer inseams to prevent the "bootie shorts."

2. 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.

The top layer of the dance floor is also an important factor. A vinyl composite "marley" floor is accepted world wide as the best dance surface for recreational to professional dance. Facilities such as Pacific Northwest Ballet and the rehearsal studios of "So You Think You Can Dance" use marley floors as their dance surface. 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 less expensive option.

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. Most costume manufactures send a garment that will need some finishing work such as hemming of pants, shoulder straps to be sized and sewn to the garment and sometimes even some adorning. Some studios require parents to sew their child's costumes or pay extra and find their own seamstress to do the sewing. Children's Dance Theater is proud to provide a seamstress who is available by appointment the week before the show, to sew and make these minor alterations for you, free of charge. Tights are always included in your June costume fees.

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 studio has office staff is on hand during all regular school year class times, so you can get immediate assistance.