

# 4 THINGS EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW BEFORE CHOOSING A DANCE STUDIO

## 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, joints, 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 absorbs the shock of jumping. It is referred to as “floating” because it is raised above the regular floor. Dance floors that are not floating provide little to no give to a dancer, greatly increasing the risk of injury.

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. Facilities such as the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, 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 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.

All of our studio locations have floating floors and a marley top surface. Our special floors help reduce the risk of injuries and allow students to dance longer without getting tired.

## WHAT IS THE SIZE OF THE DANCE CLASSES?

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 and make sure each student understands the concepts and instructions. Our smaller class sizes make sure that no fundamental concepts are being missed. A smaller class size also allows our teachers to ensure that students are not developing bad habits or improper technique.

Our studio limits all of our classes (ages 5 and up) to a maximum of just 12 students per class, with the exception of our Jazz/Hip-Hop classes. With our Creative Movement and Pre-School dance classes (ages 2 - 4) we limit all of our classes to a maximum of just 10 students per class.

## 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 quality 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.

Even if you call outside of our office hours you can expect to receive a timely response. We return calls and emails within two days of receiving them, while other studios may delay their response for weeks. You should choose a dance studio that is going to put you, the customer, first!

## WHAT ARE THE “EXTRAS” REQUIRED FOR THE RECITAL?

Most studios put on a year-end show. 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, pay extra for in-studio alterations, or 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. Most studios also require parents to purchase tickets for the recital performance night. Furthermore, some studios don’t even hold their end of year show in an actual theatre.

Our studio uses our own professional seamstress to sew and alter the costumes, so parents do not have to worry about any costume hassles. Our studio also gives each family 2 free tickets for our year-end show in honor of DanceWorks’ 15-year anniversary! This way you as a parent will not be faced with any extra work or expenses. To continue, our Spring Recital is held in a professional theatre, providing the ultimate viewing experience for families and the ultimate performance experience for dancers.

One of the best things about DanceWorks’ Spring Recital is that it’s optional! Many studios make the end of year performance mandatory for students and hide the costume/ticket/music costs in their tuition or recital fees. At DanceWorks, however, families not wishing to participate in recital are not required to pay for unwanted services. We feel that the Spring Recital is an important part of every dancers education, but ultimately it is the family’s decision to incur these costs, not the studio’s.