

## **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 received, 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 is the size of the class?**

By limiting dance class sizes 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 class size makes sure that no fundamental concepts are being missed and allows our teachers to ensure that students are not developing bad habits or improper technique.

Our studio limits all of our classes to a maximum of 14 students per class. In our larger classes, an assistant teacher is added to the classroom to increase supervision, training, and student involvement.

### **2. Is your child getting a well-rounded dance education?**

There are many forms of dance available, and all build upon each other. The discipline and skill of ballet develops precise tap dancers, while the rhythmic awareness necessary in tap enhances ballet dancers. Being educated in several dance forms simultaneously and with a reasonable time commitment is vital.

Beyond the foundations (tap, ballet, and jazz), additional dance options keep students' interest and provide for creative expression. Our studio offers Hip Hop and Pom Pom classes, as well as Ballroom for couples. Many students take several classes which allows them to satisfy different aspects of their talents and personalities.

### **3. What are the "extras" required for the end of the year show?**

Most studios put on a year-end show in a professional theater. 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 the parents must find their own seamstress to do the sewing. This can be inconvenient and frustrating for parents who are busy or cannot sew. Most studios also have general seating for the recital performance night, resulting in early lines forming to get a prime seat.

Our studio uses professional costume companies to supply all costumes, so parents do not have to worry about any costume hassles. Our studio also offers assigned recital seating with tickets on sale in advance and at the door on the night of the performance.

### **4. Can I get immediate assistance and customer service?**

In many studios the teacher conducts classes and does the administration. By doing both simultaneously, the class may suffer if the teacher has to handle a customer service issue, or the studio may have no customer service available when 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 on hand during all regular class times, so you can get immediate assistance.



**Algonquin Academy of Dance and Music LLC**  
**9246B Trinity Road Lake in the Hills, IL 60156**  
**847-854-6221 [www.aadance.com](http://www.aadance.com)**