



ACADEMY OF  
MUSIC & DANCE  
LAS CRUCES

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## **Brand New to Dance?** **Here are some tips to get started.....**

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### ***"Three 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? **No.** Does it really matter which place you decide to enroll at? **Yes.** There are three 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 dance program. Here are 4 things that every parent should consider before deciding on a dance studio for their child:

#### **1) 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. A high-density foam base is superior to a "sprung" floor, which usually consists of a wood structure built on the regular floor.

Our studio has a floating floor that has over 400 high density foam blocks under the floor surface. Our special floor helps reduce the risk of injuries and allow students to dance longer without getting tired.

#### **2) What is the Size of the Class?**

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 classes for age 4 and under to a maximum of just 10 students per class and classes for age 5 and up, 12.

#### **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 (\$90 - \$150/each) for their dance number. Some studios may require parents to sew their child's costumes, or pay extra for adjustments and the parents must find their own seamstress to do the sewing (\$50 - \$100/costume). This can be inconvenient and frustrating for parents who are busy or can't sew. When the recital comes around, every seat in the house is the same price at \$18 to \$25. Parents are expected to volunteer for recital "jobs" like ticket sales and backstage crew.

Our studio costume fee is \$75/costume (plus new tights required for a crisp, uniform look) and we will provide free fitting & alterations to the costumes so parents do not have to worry about any costume hassles. This way, you as a parent will not be faced with any extra work or expenses. Our studio offers discounted tickets to family members also gives each dancer in the show a free CHILD ticket for our year-end recital so they can invite a friend for free! Our staff handles all the back-stage work, so you can sit back and enjoy the show.