

# What does the perfect dance studio for your family look like?

Consider and answer the following questions. The weight of each of these questions depends somewhat on the age of the child in question, but all are important to consider.

## A. Why does your child want to dance?

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*For example:*

- Does your preschool daughter want to be a 'ballet princess'?
- Is your little boy a wiggle monster and wants to learn to spin on the ground?
- Does your child love the idea of performing in recitals and in local productions?
- Does she view dance seriously and wish to compete nationally and/or make it a career?

## B. What part do you want dance to play in your child's life?

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*For example:*

- Is your desire to help your preschooler better socialize with his peers? Become more active?
- Do you want your daughter to increase her self esteem and confidence in her abilities?
- Are you wanting to support your teenager in living a healthier lifestyle?
- Strengthen your child's formal dance education with an eye towards dancing through college and into adulthood?

### C. Will the perfect studio be Recreational? Competitive? Professional?

Recreational dance schools are perfectly fine. So are competitive ones, and pre-professional ones. Different dance studios teach dance differently. Assuming that the instructors are properly qualified and the facilities are safe and comfortable, the best studio for your family may emphasize fun & recreation, working collectively as a group towards competitions, or preparing students for dance careers through disciplined formal training.

Which type of studio is right for your child? Consider your responses from the first two questions above, and also tune into your intuition. You can always change studios down the line as motivations and goals change, but choosing a studio that teaches excellent technique means your child will be in a better position if they decide to get more serious about dance as they get a little older.

**The best type of studio for us is:**

- Recreational
- Competitive
- Pre-professional
- The following combination \_\_\_\_\_

### D. Narrow your answers into a 'philosophy'

Use your answers to the questions above to create your guidelines for choosing a dance studio. Putting them into a one or two sentence 'philosophy' can really help you to glean the perfect school from the options in your community.

**1 to 2 sentence philosophy – Our Perfect Studio Will Be:**

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An example for 'Bella', age 3 -

*"The perfect dance studio for Bella will be a warm, family-oriented place for her to enjoy learning and being around other children. This dance studio will offer a foundation of solid technique and training from which she can later build on if she decides to work towards a career in dance".*

Wonderful! Having gone through this exercise will make it much easier to choose the best studio for your family from those in your area. [Click here to find and print Step 2: Choosing a Dance Studio](#)