

# *The Holmes Studio of Dance, Music & Wellness*

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## **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 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 is the class size?**

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 that each student understands the concepts and instructions. Even with older students, smaller size is just as important. Teachers are able to keep checking with progressions and clarity of skills acquired each year. Individualization is important not only with instruction but in recognition of each student. Large classes can often enable students the ability to "hide" in the back of the class and thus end up feeling ignored or even left out.

It is a natural thing for students to want to have fun, learn and be successful. Our studio takes pride in restricting class sizes so as to allow teachers to nurture each child's potential. By not only recognizing each student's individuality as a dancer, but also as a learner, we see growth that those bigger studios can often miss.

### **2. How is the atmosphere at the studio? Are there competitions?**

The philosophy of the studio owners has been to develop an environment that encourages creative expression. This occurs in a noncompetitive atmosphere where each student is recognized for their own individuality. This is where we take GREAT pride in our development of the studio. This is not to say that we have not competed or will not compete in the future, it is just not what we are about. Inside the classroom we have fostered a network of great teamwork and admiration for

each other. There is no room for competitiveness among peers. Our focus is on the learning, the joy, the passion of dance - and we do love to perform!

Our Performance Group is comprised of students who want extra performances such as First Night in Northampton and other various nonprofit opportunities within the Valley. It is open to all that wish provided they consistently demonstrate diligent work ethics and attendance.

### **3. What is the end of the year performance?**

Our annual Dance Extravaganza during the month of June provides the students a great opportunity to show off and perform what they've learned throughout the year for two nights. It has been raved as one of the "best shows" by people who are often accustomed to the typical 4 plus hour "dance studio recital" - and with good reason. We present an array of varying styles of dance - tastefully and uniquely choreographed and designed for each specific class. We also organize the routines and sets so that our own time limit of under 3 hours is maintained each year. We recognize that families have difficulty committing an entire weekend for 3 or 4 performances each lasting over 4 hours.

Besides the June performance, a showcase will be held in January to feature developing talents. This "Winter Show" does not include costumes or set designs, but it focuses on giving the students a chance to perform. After all, who wants to wait until June? We find that families as well as the students, really appreciate this opportunity.

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

Friendly staff - you bet! To have a good experience it's important to choose a studio that can assist you with details like costumes and schedules even if the teacher is occupied in a class. Our studios have office staff on hand during regular class times so you can get immediate assistance.