



GET IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME

5 Mistakes To Avoid Making When Choosing
A Performing Arts Studio For Your Child



Selecting The Right Performing Arts Studio For Your Child Can Be Difficult...



We Have Created This Guide So You Get It Right The First Time.

This Guide Is Perfect For You If You...

- Have a child who loves to move and sing. They dance around the house, up the aisles of the local mall and love putting on shows for your whole family to watch.
- Are confused when it comes to selecting which studio would suit your child best. They all look the same, so where do you start?
- Don't want to go to a scary and high pressure studio. You want to know the signs to look out for so you don't end up being a crazy parent.
- Want your child to attend a studio that will help boost their confidence, where they can make new friends and, most of all, where they will have fun and learn new skills.

With more and more studios opening up each week it can be challenging for a parent to know where the best place will be for their child, and that's why we created this guide.

You and your child are seeking out a certain type of experience you want to have at a studio, so please use this guide to do exactly that - find your family the best fit! I've been working with children for 26 years and that's what I've based this guide on. I hope you find this helpful when deciding on the best studio for your child.

Best wishes,
Heather Wrubel
Dance Studio Owner
Bowman Dance Company & School

Mistake #1

Not asking the right questions to the right people

There are many questions that you should be asking before committing to a studio for your child before they even attend their first trial class. The most important question should be “What are the core values of this studio?” When making your decision, it’s important to dig a little deeper than just asking about class costs and schedules. Learn about the teachers, their experience, their goals for your child, their teaching philosophy. Of course, it is also important to get the practical information such as important dates, costuming/uniform, etc.. And remember, any studio worth your time and money will be able to happily answer any questions you bring to them.

It’s also extremely valuable to talk with other parents at the studio to gauge their feelings. While waiting for your trial to begin, strike up a conversation with the mother or father sitting next to you in the waiting room. “How long have you been coming here? How do you find it?” Don’t interrogate them, but you’ll be surprised at how telling their unrehearsed insight will be.

Mistake #2

You’re not shopping around

If you live in or near any major city, chances are there is a studio on every corner and they are all competing to get you through their doors and to stay there. When deciding on a studio to join, make sure to take advantage of all the choices available to ensure you find the one that is the best fit for your child and your family. Just like the students they teach, your local studios will all have different goals. For example, they may be a competitive studio with a focus on elite training and opportunities or they may be a recreational studio with a focus on fun and community. The right studio for you is out there, but it may not be the first one you call.

Most (if not all) studios will offer a free trial class for new students, so make sure you ask about trying a class out before you do commit as this is the best way to see if it is right for you. A trial class is invaluable in getting some insight into the how the teachers interact with the class, the language that is used, how full and engaged the class is, how appealing the content is and, above all, how much your child enjoyed themselves.

Also, take note of how organised the studio is from your first call or email exchange with them. Do they have systems in place to book you in for a trial class and do they follow up with you promptly? This will really show you how on top of running the business they are. You want to attend a studio that is thriving and not in a constant state of chaos.



Mistake #3

You're comparing your child to others

As a parent, it can be difficult to watch your child in an environment with their peers without comparing them. Whether it is their skill level, their behaviour or their attachment to you, it is important to remind yourself that every child in the class is developing at a different rate – especially in the formative years before they start school.

When your child joins a class you'll probably notice that their confidence seems a little lower than the other children who are slightly older or have been in class longer. They may seem more enthusiastic, remember sequences more quickly, and their coordination and skill levels may be higher. The most important thing a teacher can do is to make sure they meet every student at their own level both technically and creatively. Don't assume that because your child is a bit standoffish in their first few lessons that they are not ready for class – instead look for how the teacher is nurturing their needs. If your child is being met at their level, they will blossom in their performance arts journey - just give them time (tears are not uncommon at the preschool age either).

Mistake #4

You're choosing based on price

Of course, a low price tag can be very appealing, especially when children's recreational activities can be such an expensive venture. Just remember that you are getting what you pay for. A great studio is probably going to cost you a bit more money per class – but you need to think of this expense in terms of its value and your investment into the growth of your child.

What exactly are you paying for? A performing arts class is a lot more than just popping on some music and twirling around. You are paying for the experience of a great teacher, quality props, carefully planned and structured lessons and a safe and well-equipped venue. Beyond these things that all factor into the price of your lessons, the value you'll receive from a great studio will come back to you as you see your child build confidence, social skills, attentiveness, teamwork and a passion for creativity and the arts.

Mistake #5

You're not listening to your child and your gut

All of your questions have been answered. Your trial class went really well. But there's something holding you back – you just can't pinpoint it, but you're not 100% ready to commit.

That's perfectly fine! Going with your gut instinct is a perfectly valid reason to keep shopping around for the perfect studio. Try a few more classes locally and you may be able to pinpoint exactly why you felt that way, or even decide to try again a bit later. Perhaps it isn't that the studio has done anything wrong, but your child is simply not ready yet for class. And that's OK too.

Listen to your child and your gut. You know your child better than anyone, and if they are telling or showing you that they aren't ready then just wait. Pushing a child to start before they are socially and emotionally ready may bring some negative feelings about the class, so giving them a chance to grow a bit more before getting started may be necessary. Don't stress - there will still be a studio on every corner in 6 or 12 months when you decide to try again.



BDCS MISSION

Kids face so much negativity in the world and here at BDCS we believe we have the opportunity to change their lives. We believe in mentoring and supporting students to discover who they are, creating high quality programming in dance, drama and music that develops confidence, resilience and perseverance for students to achieve their dreams. Our goal is to give students the tools needed to make a positive impact within their personal neighborhoods and communities.

BDCS VISION

Our passion is to create a positive change in our students lives by teaching them the confidence, resilience and perseverance needed to achieve their goals and dreams.

HOW TO JOIN

Bowman Dance Company & School



We would love to see you and your child at our studio. As I mentioned in this guide, not every studio is right for every child but we would love the opportunity to share with you our classes, teachers and facility.

To sign up for your trial class please click **HERE**, fill in your contact details and we will be in touch to arrange a time for you and your child to come and experience what we are all about.

Alternatively please feel free to call us at (610) 272-4850 to ask us any questions.

I look forward to seeing you at the studio soon!

Best regards
Heather Wrubel
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