



# GET IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME

A guide to choosing a performing arts studio where your child can thrive.



With so many activities to choose from, 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.

Choosing a studio for your child is so much more than picking a class and being in a recital.

You're choosing a place where your child will be nurtured and given a chance to build some amazing life skills. They will develop role models and mentors and will watch the other students pave the way before them.

As a parent, you want a place where your child will build confidence and be accepted and loved for who they are.

You and your family 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 20 amazing years. I've seen many families come and go, and the ones that stay are the ones who are a fit for our values and our culture.

I hope this guide helps you to find your forever fit and studio home!

Emma England  
Artistic Director  
Studio 3 Performing Arts Academy

Sarah

# WHERE TO START



## FEELING A LITTLE UPSIDE DOWN? TOO MANY CHOICES?

We totally get it!

So many dance studios & theatres look the same, so which is the right fit for your family?

And how do you know if you want to do musical theatre or dance? Voice or acting? So many choices!

### START BY:

- ★ Asking the right questions
- ★ Determining what values are important to you
- ★ Being in tune with your child,  
after all, they're the ones who will be participating!

# Have an idea about what *type of program* you're looking for.

What is the focal point of the studio? Does it have a variety of programs to grow with your child?

Dance studios, acting studios, music schools, community theatre programs...  
There are so many options today, how do you know where to begin?

Start with looking at its focal point.

There are 3 types of studios: competition studios, recreational studios, and professional studios. And there are some that are a combination of each. You need to know which type of studio is the best fit for you.

A recreational studio or community theatre offering classes gives children the opportunity to dance, have fun, and perform on stage. Programs are centered around the enjoyment of performing, and there may not be clear curriculum that shows the progress your child will make. These studios can be a good fit for families who want a low-key approach to learning and are not interested in a quality end-product like a competition routine or Broadway-style show.

A competition-based studio builds even its recreational dancers up with the intention of someday competing and local and national competitions. While competition teams can build comradery and push students to work hard, it often comes with a huge price tag and many many hours of training. Competition dancers have no time for anything else.

A professional studio builds its programs around the idea of building young professionals. These studios offer quality training that also focuses on life skills and the preparation for the future. While these studios may have recreational and competition programs, their primary focus is on developing role models and leaders of the next generation, whether they pursue a performing arts career or not.

Beyond these qualifications, you need to look at the types of classes the studio offers. Are you looking for a dance studio and separate voice & acting studios, or are you looking for one place where you can do all 3?



# Learn to ask the *Right Questions* when choosing a studio.

## Who are the Instructors?

One of the first things you should be asking are the qualifications of the instructors. Are there kids teaching kids, or do they have qualified adults with college degrees or certification programs to back their training. Professional instructors have a background that's more than just dance, acting, or voice. They have training in child development, classroom management, lesson planning, & experience in the field.

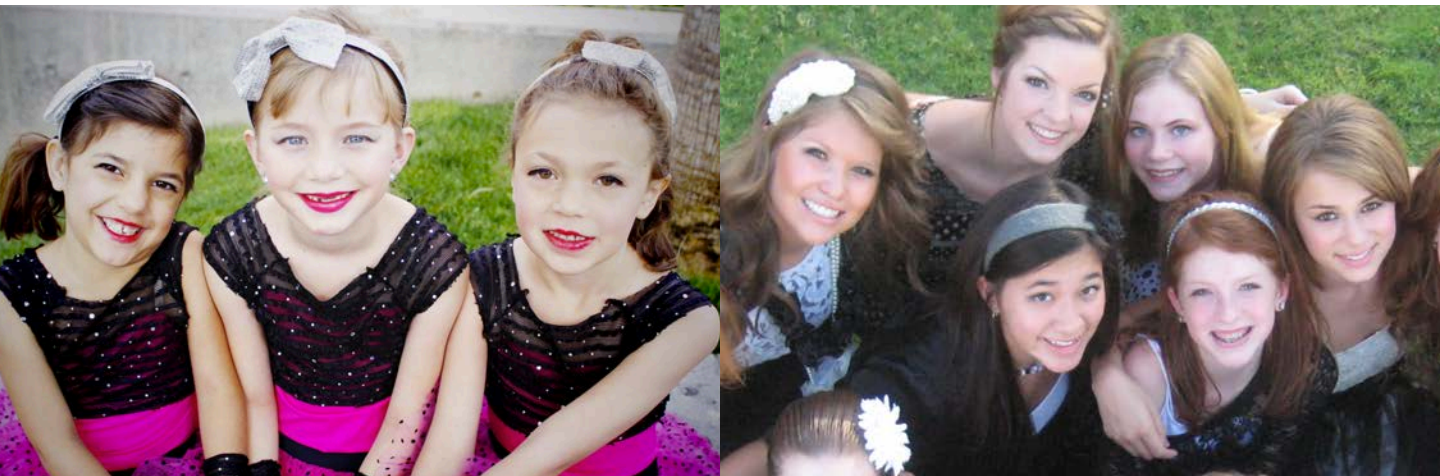
## What kind of space will classes take place in?

A quality studio will offer quality spaces for training. Dance classes should take place on sprung floors to prevent injury, and there should be plenty of space for students to move freely. Watch out for concrete or flooring laid over concrete. This can be detrimental to your child's joints & physical health.

Look for studios that have large mirrors, which help students to see themselves and aid in corrections. Viewing windows are also a plus, so you have the option to watch your child's class from time to time.

## Are programs built to be age-appropriate?

Take a look at the videos and photos the studio is posting to their social media accounts. When looking at the studio's movement and costumes, does it make you uncomfortable or compromise your family values? Are programs designed with the age of the student in mind with instructors who know how to teach that age group?



# Learn to ask the *Right Questions* when choosing a studio.

## How are students placed in classes?

Children should be in a class where they are challenged to grow and learn, but not feel over their head. Look for a studio that places students by experience and ability rather than based solely on age. This is why it's important that the studio have a community feeling, where students of various ages get along and train together in harmony. Look also for programs where recreational and professional kids can grow at their own pace. Just like competition-minded dancers push themselves to succeed, there's an inherent inner-competition that recreational students may not sync up to. This is why many dance and theatre programs put kids who have higher commitment and drive into separate programs where they can thrive together.

## Is there a studio-wide curriculum?

Successful studios have studio-wide curriculum programs that maintain standards between instructors. These programs have clear definitions of class levels and prerequisites that must be met to move to the next level. With all instructors teaching toward the same end goal, students progress faster. Students are also able to see on paper what skills and concepts they should be working on to continue toward the next level.

## Are there opportunities for your child to connect outside of their classes?

Choosing a studio is choosing a second home for your child. It's choosing the types of people they will be around the types of role models they will have growing up. So naturally, you should be interested in the opportunities for your child to become "part of the family." Are there performing companies or competition teams that develop a close-knit team feeling? Are there opportunities to do outreach in the community or attend social events to connect with other students and parents? Are you looking for an in-and-out studio or one where you can invest your time to achieve that sense of belonging?

# Some things are best discovered through *Experience*

You will never know the feeling you get when you walk through the doors until you walk through the doors.

First impressions are everything. So, what feeling do you get when you walk in that first time and every time after? Are there friendly, knowledgeable staff ready to greet you? How quickly does someone notice you walk through the door and do they acknowledge you as you leave? How do you feel as you walk through the halls and interact with other students and parents? You'll feel a specific vibe and can tell right away if this studio feels warm and inviting. This is an environment you want them to call home!

Look at the type of people you see.

Every parent wants to make sure their child is in good hands. Watch the interaction of the other students and parents. Do you see a community where everyone is welcomed with open arms? Do you see students being inclusive and connecting with students of different ages or backgrounds? Look for the smiles on the students' and instructors' faces as they welcome students into the classroom. These are the people your child is going to spend a lot of time with. These are the role models and leaders they will grow to love and connect with over the years.



# Make sure to look at the ways the studio will *Keep you safe!*

Ask about the company's current social distancing parameters to decide if they align with your values.

- ★ Do they have a strong plan in place?
- ★ Are they clear and decisive about how they will handle classes, including detailed procedures for pick-up/drop-off, lunch and snack breaks, and procedures to move kids from one activity to the next within the classroom?
- ★ Do they have posted reminders about social distancing?
- ★ Are they transparent about their policies and cleaning schedules?

Does the company have experience playing out these procedures? Ask if they have done test classes to evaluate their effectiveness. Have they implemented a reduced capacity that reflects the guidelines of the CDC and other reputable organizations?

## Even if you don't think you need it Look at the studio's *virtual options*

We don't know what's in the near future, and we can't rule out the possibility of another stay-at-home order. Does the studio have a contingency plan that allows them to seamlessly transition to online learning without interruption?

If the studio is offering virtual classes, is this brand new to them or something they have tried and tested on multiple occasions?

- ★ Organizations who have been actively practicing online education the past few months will have worked out the kinks and will offer a strong online program.
- ★ With experience, instructors and staff will know how to accommodate for students online. This means a BETTER experience for your child

Is the program modified for the virtual component?

- ★ Things that work in an in-person class don't always work online. Is the program designed to engage and encourage participation?



# Let's see how Studio 3 Checks off all the boxes



Professional studio with opportunities for competition & recreation level performers.

Studio 3's primary focus is on the whole student, as a person. We want to develop confident young leaders who leave our programs with the life skills they need to be successful in any career path.



Singing, dancing, and acting all under one roof.

Not only do we offer all classes separately, but many of our programs weave them together to help students become triple threat performers!



Qualified instructors with degrees or certification in arts & education

Every one of our teachers has either a degree in arts or education or has passed adequate teaching certifications to become an instructor. We take great pride on offering quality teachers who deliver quality content and a personable approach to learning.



Affiliation with reputable organization that provides continued professional development for staff & instructors.

Studio 3 is a member of several national and international organizations. As members of the Dance Studio Owners Organization, our team receive weekly professional development opportunities in leadership, systems, operations, and instruction. Many of our staff also continue to perform professionally in the community and take classes on their own to further their skills. Our vocal instructors are a member of the National Association of the Teachers of Singing, which helps us to provide amazing resources and opportunities for our vocal students.

# Let's see how Studio 3 Checks off all the boxes



Quality space with sprung floors, mirrors, and attention to safety

All of our floors are quality sprung wood floors to prevent injury. Our rooms also have large mirrors and viewing windows so you can take the time to watch your child's progress from time to time.



Age-appropriate programs

Our programs are built with student age and maturity in mind. You won't find 2piece costumes here. We believe that kids should be kids and shouldn't have to compromise their values for the movement or costumes they wear in class or performances.



Studio-wide curriculum with assessments

Assessments mean progress reports and a results-driven curriculum. Our students know what they need to reach the next level via our studio-wide curriculum. All our teachers teach based on the same vocabulary and progress chart to ensure standards studio-wide.



Opportunities to connect outside of class

We believe community is key to a positive arts education experience. We're always planning events and activities to draw us closer as a Studio 3 Family.



Inclusivity all around

Its in our mission to avoid favoritism and give everyone an equal opportunity. We teach our students to be inclusive to everyone, and accept them for who they are. We have many students with autism, learning disorders, or special needs who are mainstreamed into our programs because of the welcoming nature of our students. We accept children of all races, backgrounds, colors, orientations, and genders.

# Get the resources you need to make an *Informed decision*

1

Go to our website to learn more!

[www.studio3arts.com](http://www.studio3arts.com)

Check out the individual programs we offer, read our teacher bios, and see testimonials from our families!

2

Read up on our social distancing policies.

<https://sites.google.com/studio3arts.com/safety/re-opening-policies-procedures>

Watch the video and learn about how we are keeping families safe.

3

See our programs in action on YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGjBJ9RwJlgr4mLBJbCUGDg?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGjBJ9RwJlgr4mLBJbCUGDg?view_as=subscriber)

We've known for our outstanding performances and Broadway-style shows through our sister youth-theatre Limelight Performing Arts. We also have an award-winning show choir program called Showstoppers that has brought confidence to hundreds of children in the past 12 years.

# Did we mention that Studio 3

## *Offered 100 virtual sessions a week this spring?*

*We've worked out what works & what doesn't with Virtual Classes!*



Studio 3 opened our Virtual Academy in March 2020 with great success! Our staff met weekly to troubleshoot and develop **standards for online arts education** that have been followed by many other studios!

We've put a lot of thought into **adapting to the virtual platform** rather than trying to "do normal classes – only they're online." Teaching, learning, & interacting online is different, so our camp models will reflect that.

We continue to find ways to improve the quality of our programs and are paving the way for virtual training of the future.

Online, we've done **group classes, private lessons, princess parties, craft sessions, couch karaoke, dance challenges, acting workshops, and more!**

The possibilities are endless!

At Studio 3 we will continue to pivot & and forge ahead through this "new normal."

Above all, if the state hits another stay-at-home-order, we'll be ready!



# What makes Studio 3 So unique?

*We believe we have something for everyone! Let us tell you why:*

## The Studio 3 Difference

You're not just choosing a studio. You're choosing **role models** & a positive, family atmosphere!

A **well-rounded** education in music, dance, and theatre...All under one roof!

And did you know that the performing arts **Help with academics too?**

That's right! It aids with cognitive development, and even improves things like memory capacity, attentiveness, & critical thinking skills!

Not to mention it builds **life skills** such as leadership, teamwork, discipline, confidence, and communication.

And did we mention **It's fun?!**

Come meet new friends, discover a passion, and find your **family!**





# WHAT'S NEXT?

## IF STUDIO 3 SOUNDS LIKE A FIT FOR YOU:

Come try a class!

We're confident that if we are a fit for you, you'll feel it when you walk in the door. And when you try a class, it'll seal the deal!

We offer a FIRST CLASS FREE for new students.

OR if you're wanting to try multiple classes on the schedule, you can purchase a 7-day FlexPass for only \$20.

Our FlexPass gets you into ANY classes of your choice, and the best part? If you decide to register on the day of your last trial class, we'll credit your \$20 toward your first month of tuition!

Book your trial by emailing [info@studio3arts.com](mailto:info@studio3arts.com) today!