

## Dancing Feet!

Tap shoes...jazz shoes...ballet shoes...pointe shoes...character shoes...Greek sandals...foot thongs...the list goes on. From the minute you help your little ballerina take her first tiny steps onto the dance floor the shoes she wears matter. An important tool used during the learning period of a fantastic craft.

Fit matters. Buying dance shoes for the young, growing dancer is an investment. It is absolutely necessary to fit them properly. Buying “to grow into” is not an option. It is unsafe and detrimental to the learning process. It won’t take long for your dancer to be asked to learn something that just simply will not work if the shoe doesn’t fit. When you are shopping for dance shoes make sure the vendor offers multiple styles to choose from. The correct width is as important as length. Make sure to find a supplier who really knows how to fit the multiple styles of dance shoes. Your studio director and instructors should be able to give you a complete list of shoe manufactures/styles that are appropriate for your dancer. They should also be able to describe the correct fit to you so that you shop prepared.

Quality matters. A good leather tap shoe is always the best choice. Canvas ballet shoes should fit like a nice snug glove; the lace ties at the top of the shoe tied and tucked into the shoe. Soft leather jazz shoes without laces are a top pick. None of the shoes should bag or slip easily on/off the foot. Dance shoes become a very personal tool to an accomplished dancer. Sharing doesn’t really work either. The dancer will sweat in the shoe and it will mold to their foot. Every dancer’s foot is different and individual – so should be the shoes. Pointe shoes take shoe buying to another level. Many studios don’t give close to enough guidance to the new pointe student. At ELITE I accompany every dancer to fit for pointe shoes. There is a lot to know and learn when it comes to fitting pointe shoes not just for the dancer but the parent also. We make it an outing that everyone benefits from.

I encourage parents to look at dance shoe buying as an investment right from the beginning. The expense is necessary and well worth it for the dancer when the shoe fits.

Need info on buying shoes? Contact us at [info@elitedancestudios.net](mailto:info@elitedancestudios.net) where we are happy to help in your search for the perfect dancing shoe!