

Placement Philosophy



One of the greatest gifts a teacher can give a student is the opportunity to build confidence through mastery rather than comparison. This philosophy is deeply personal to Allysen.

Growing up, Allysen was often **the last dancer in her age group to advance**, despite having devoted more years to the art form than many of her peers. At the time, it wasn't always easy to understand. Like many young dancers, she sometimes wondered why she wasn't progressing as quickly as others.

Looking back, she now recognizes that those years became one of the greatest blessings in her education.

Because she was given the time to truly master each level before advancing, she developed a technical foundation that gave her the confidence to pursue dance professionally. That foundation led her to earn her Bachelors of Science in dance with honors, perform professionally, teach at the collegiate level, and ultimately return home to lead The Studio. She did not simply learn choreography—she learned her craft.

That experience continues to shape every placement decision made at The Studio.

We know it can be tempting to equate advancement with success, but dance is not a race, nor is growth a competition. **Every dancer blooms in their own season.** Just as not every flower blossoms at the same time—or even in the same season—we believe every child develops according to their own unique timeline. Some bloom early, while others quietly establish deep roots before they flourish. Neither path is better; both are beautiful.

When a dancer is advanced before they are physically, technically, or emotionally prepared, they often spend their energy trying to keep up rather than truly learning. This can increase the risk of injury, undermine confidence, and rob students of the joy that comes from genuine accomplishment. On the other hand, dancers who are given the time to master each level develop confidence that cannot be manufactured. They learn that success is earned through patience, perseverance, and consistent effort.

At The Studio, we refuse to let comparison define a dancer's journey. Our responsibility is not to move students through levels as quickly as possible, but to recognize when they are truly ready to take the next step. Every placement decision is made with the dancer's **physical safety, emotional well-being, and long-term development** at heart.

We would rather a dancer spend one extra year building an unshakable foundation than spend years trying to recover from one that was never fully formed. Confidence is built through mastery, and mastery takes time. We believe that when students are given the freedom to grow at the pace that is right for them, they don't just become stronger dancers—they become confident, resilient individuals prepared to thrive wherever life leads them.