

# HOW TO CREATE AN AT-HOME DANCE SPACE FOR YOUR CHILD

Pirouetting around the kitchen or using a countertop as a barre might be fun, but it's not safe or practical. It's not enough to just throw down a mat and prop up a mirror, however. To build a home ballet studio that will be truly beneficial, and not detrimental, to a dancer's development, serious consideration should be given to the location of the studio, the materials used and what the studio will be primarily used for.

## LOCATION

The space you select should be away from busy areas, well-ventilated, and have a free wall where mirrors and a barre can be hung or placed.

## FLOORING

Even in rooms with hardwood floors, a thin layer of padding or laminate will provide comfort, proper support and decrease slipperiness. For an inexpensive portable floor, simply purchase a 4' x 4' piece of half-inch thick plywood from your local lumber yard or hardware store. You can enhance it by gluing a layer of dense cushioning material to the bottom of the board for comfort and support or attach a layer of laminate flooring for a double-sided use.

## A BARRE

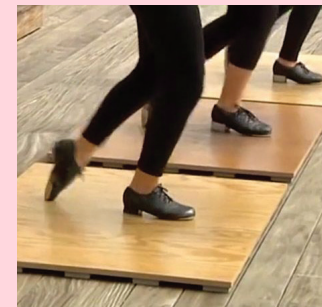
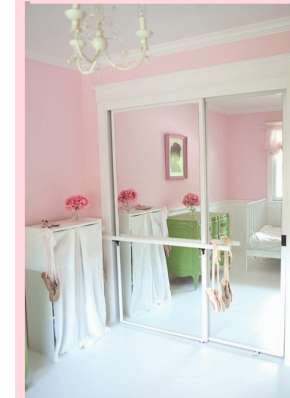
A wall-mounted barre will maximize space in small rooms. Wooden dowels with a diameter between one and three inches work well and can be easily found at a hardware store. A rolling clothes rack also works if it collapses and the wheels can be temporarily removed.

## MIRRORS

Mirrors are essential to the home studio. Dancers need to be able to easily see their form. You can find large mirrors at a hardware or home furnishing store. A less expensive alternative is to form one large mirror out of small mirror tiles. Mirrored closet doors are also an inexpensive idea. Otherwise, search online yard sale/swap groups for used mirrors.

**Peplow Williams Academy**  
of Theatre and Performing Arts

Creating a home studio gives dancers a quiet space to focus and practice their skills. It only takes a few components, all of which have cheap alternatives, to put together a studio that will serve as a valuable supplement to a dancer's regular classes and routines.



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