

# **Avoiding the 7 Crucial Mistakes Most Parents Make When Choosing a Martial Arts School!**

Dear Parent,

Many top child psychologists today agree that **above and beyond providing basic necessities, the number one, highest priority role of parents is to nurture a high degree of confidence and self-esteem in their children.** In addition to a loving environment, it is of utmost importance that we nurture self-esteem in order to ensure that our kids grow up feeling confident and believing in themselves. It goes without saying that confidence in oneself is a key ingredient to ongoing personal development and happiness.

There are many ways that parents can help cultivate self-esteem, such as avoiding negative criticism, providing plenty of praise and encouragement, expressing their love, and getting their kids involved with programs outside the home that foster greater confidence and make them feel like winners!

Many parents look to martial arts programs for this purpose, having heard that martial arts are great for developing confidence, focus, discipline, and self-defense.

**Unfortunately, Not All Martial Arts Programs Are Created Equal, And Most Fall Way Short When It Comes To Delivering On These Important Benefits. In Fact, Most Don't Even Know How Their Program Is Supposed To Accomplish The Benefits They Promote!**

Once you have finished reading this special report, however, not only will you have a much better understanding of how to avoid the 7 Crucial Mistakes I referred to in the title, more importantly you will know how to find the right school for your family!

Now let's take a look at those 7 mistakes:

## **1. Most Parents Have No Idea How Martial Arts Will Give Their Child the Desired Benefits, They Have Just Heard That It Somehow Does**

The main problem is that most instructors don't know either! Despite what anyone tells you, studying a martial art in itself will seldom do anything to increase a child's confidence, focus, self-discipline or respect. A good school that excels at teaching kids, however, will have well-formed methodologies designed specifically for this purpose. A Gracie Tampa, we have clear, simple systems in place to hold students accountable and measure progress in these critical areas. Be wary of those that don't!

## **2. "Shopping" For A Martial Arts Program**

Many parents "shop" for a martial arts school without realizing that there are huge differences between the quality and know-how offered in different programs. Martial arts are NOT a commodity and neither is your child! That is why basing your decision solely on the cheapest price for a program is a huge mistake. Although finding a good value for your money is important, when it comes to the best education for your family, the fact remains that you usually get what you pay for.

## **3. Mistaking A Sports Program Or Gym Activity For A Professional School**

Parents often fail to realize that a top-level, professional martial arts program is as much an educational supplement as it is a physical activity. Accordingly, it should not be compared to a gym activity like swimming classes or a seasonal sport like soccer, baseball, etc. At Gracie Tampa, we have a complete program of mental and physical development designed to take a student to black belt level and beyond; in the process, we give them a powerful life skills education that will help enhance their academic education and all other aspects of their lives.

#### **4. Looking at Programs That Teach All Kids To Be the Same**

This is a very common characteristic of most martial arts schools today, and unfortunately it is based on blind devotion to outdated teaching models instead of more modern, well-informed methodologies. As any decent educator understands, all kids have different personalities, learning styles, and strengths. Yet the vast majority of karate and other martial arts programs teach classes where all the students are expected to move in only certain, uniform ways or do pre-arranged sequences of movements over and over again like robots. The Gracie Tampa approach allows kids to work on a variety of different skills and gives them the flexibility to learn and move as individuals while giving the tools to enhance their self-discipline and confidence.

#### **5. A Martial Arts School Should Not Be a Glorified Day Care Center**

On the opposite end of the spectrum from the cookie-cutter traditional programs are the ones that are all fun and games all the time. Remember that even though having fun and utilizing games to reinforce techniques and material covered in class are important parts of the curriculum, the kids are there to learn and achieve their best in terms of performance and personal excellence. This simply will not happen if the quality of the program is not there and the program is just another “fun activity.”

#### **6. Not Realizing That a Black Belt Does Not Necessarily Make an Educator**

Just because an instructor has a black belt in a martial arts does not make him or her a qualified educator. Furthermore, although some martial arts instructors have the capacity to be solid role models for kids, the sad fact is that many are not! When choosing a school, always consider whether the instructors are dedicated educators with your child’s best interests in mind rather than “martial arts guys” who teach kids just to make extra money. Also make sure that they have the right attitudes and personalities for teaching kids, because they will naturally become role models for your child.

Our team at Gracie Tampa prides itself on its dedication to teaching. Our staff leaders have years of experience as educators in academics as well as martial

arts. We also refine and update our curriculums regularly and continue honing our teaching with weekly staff training in order to bring our students the best.

## 7. Overlooking the Fact That the Facility Reflects The Quality of the Program.

When looking at a school, see if it is clean, professional, and properly equipped for its purpose. The way that a school is kept says a great deal about its owners and staff. If they are not willing to go the extra mile to maintain a high quality facility, how can they be entrusted to show your child the positive value of self-discipline?

So there you have it, “Avoiding the 7 Crucial Mistakes Most Parents Make When Choosing a Martial Arts School!”

Now that you are educated on the process and understand a little bit about the benefits of training for your child and family, give us a call at 813 569 7725 to schedule a NO obligation, FREE Trial Program complete with over \$100 in FREE GIFTS!

We look forward to meeting you and you working with your child.

Sincerely,  
Cristina Rodriguez  
Gracie Tampa Youth Academy

Co-Owner & Head Instructor

**Space is limited, so call today!**  
**813 569 7725**

