



## Kids Let's Dance Links to EYFS

### Equal Opportunities

Kids Let's Dance believes all children have an equal right to education and learning through play. We endeavour to provide a caring environment where every child regardless of gender, race, colour, religion, disabilities or social background will be treated equally.

### EYFS Aims and Objectives

The Department for Education's Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS, September 2012) identifies clear overarching principles and areas of learning and development (see below). THE EYFS is a distinct stage and important both in its own right and for preparing children for later schooling. Kids Let's Dance classes support the foundation stage curriculum.

#### EYFS Overarching Principles

- Every child is a **unique child**, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured
- Children learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**
- Children learn and develop well in **enabling environments**, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers
- **Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.** The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special education needs and disabilities.

Kids Let's Dance supports these principles by being open to all children, providing a social environment to listen, respect and learn from each other, building positive relationships with children, parents, carers and practitioners when working in groups, parents and/or carers are encouraged to join in and take notice of their child's progress, classes are adapted to according to the ability and diversity of the classes, it is a fun learning environment that stimulates learning through dance, movement and rhythm, and uses different resources to discover different ways of doing things.

**Nurseries, Children's Centres and other Early Years setting please note:** We will gain permission from parents and distribute leaflets to give them a better understanding

of our sessions. Please consider an extended invitation to children who do not attend the setting during the times the sessions take place. The Kids Let's Dance representative will lead the class to support the learning journey and key workers will attend the classes to support the children's needs.

## **EYFS 7 areas of learning and development**

The areas of learning and development establish expectations for most children to reach by the end of the foundation stage. The foundation stage curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning.

The seven areas are:

- **communication and language**
- **physical development**
- **personal, social and emotional development**
- **literacy**
- **mathematics**
- **understanding the world**
- **expressive arts and design**

These seven areas and how Kids Let's Dance supports them are explained in more detail as follows:

### **1. Communication and language**

This area of learning involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

Kids Let's Dance classes give children the opportunity to share and enjoy a wide range of rhymes, music, songs and stories. Children use language for communication and for thinking. They learn to follow instructions, and get the opportunity to express themselves. They also link language with physical movement in action songs and rhymes, role play and practical experiences.

Benefits:

- Learning to use sounds, music, words, poems, rhymes, texts and stories as stimuli for, and accompaniment to dance
- Using language to imagine and recreate roles and ideas in the dance
- Interaction - negotiating plans and activities and developing conversational skills
- Appreciation - talking about personal dance performance
- Observation - talking about the dance performance of others
- Developing a vocabulary of movement

### **2. Physical development**

Physical development in the foundation stage involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

Our classes are held in large halls providing sufficient space for children to explore and develop their movement skills within a range of contexts, both structured and unstructured. The use of equipment and props allow the development of both fine and gross motor skills. The classes allow children to express themselves freely to music, building confidence, control, imagination, and increasing co-ordination and an awareness of space and others.

Benefits:

- Moving safely, imaginatively and with confidence
- Moving with bodily control, co-ordination, flexibility and balance
- The development of spatial awareness
- Dancing with props; developing manipulative skills
- Experiencing a range of gross motor movements and fine motor movements
- Keeping healthy - dance as part of a healthy lifestyle

### **3. Personal, social and emotional development**

This area involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.

Our classes give children the opportunity to develop self-confidence and self-esteem by trying new activities and working in a group. Children learn to follow rules and instructions while also getting the chance to interact co-operatively with others, to develop respect for others, group interaction, self-control, a sense of community and social skills. This helps them form positive relationship with attending adults and other children.

Benefits:

- Having an enjoyable, exciting and motivating time
- Working individually, with a partner and as part of a group
- Developing trust and co-operation
- Selecting and using movement ideas independently and with others
- Exploring feelings and views of self and others - including other cultures and beliefs
- Accepting the moral code on which discipline and courtesy within the group is based
- Interacting with a new social group

### **4. Literacy**

This area involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children must be given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems and other written materials) to ignite their interest.

Kids Let's Dance has printed stories, comics and colouring-in material linked to our syllabus and themes available for children to take home after class.

Benefits:

- Learning to use stories, poems, rhymes and texts as stimuli for, and accompaniment to dance
- Opportunity to see, read and use written material

### **5. Mathematics**

This area involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces and measures.

Kids Let's Dance develop mathematical understanding through stories, counting songs, making shapes in space, games, and imaginative play, so that children enjoy using and experimenting with numbers. Our classes help them learn about positions, patterns, distance and timing in a fun and fulfilling way.

Benefits:

- The development of spatial awareness
- Understanding of different shapes, positions and floors and body patterns
- Rhythmic counting and timing

## **6. Understanding of the world**

This area involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

Kids Let's Dance uses stories and props, both professional and homemade, to give the opportunity for exploration, observation, prediction, discussion and to stimulate children's interest and curiosity in their surroundings and different ways of thinking and doing things.

Benefits:

- Exploring feelings and views of self and others - including other cultures and beliefs
- Exposure to various stories and props, including from different cultures and communities
- Exposure to a variety of music relating to different cultures

## **7. Expressive arts and design**

This area involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

Kids Let's Dance classes provide children with the opportunity to create dance and movement to music in a stimulating environment in which creativity, originality, imagination and expressiveness are valued. We offer a wide range of activities that children can respond to by using many senses.

Benefits:

- Communicating ideas, thoughts and feelings non-verbally through movement
- Using the imagination to create ideas, characters and narratives
- Making movement responses

# **Disabilities and Special Needs**

Kids Let's Dance is inclusive of children with disabilities and special needs. Dance and Movement classes can give:

- children with visual impairment the opportunity to have physical contact with props, equipment, spaces and movements
- children with hearing impairment the opportunity to experience sound through vibrations and rhythm through movement
- children who cannot communicate by voice the opportunity to respond to music in different ways, such as gestures and dance.

Please feel free to discuss a child's individual needs with us, preferably in advance.