

Contribution of Creative Movement to the development of the whole of the child

Creative Movement can:

- Develop the process of thinking and communicating ideas in a symbolic way that suits them best. This is at the heart of communication applied across the curriculum
- Develop self-esteem if original ideas are valued, and by stimulating curiosity and imagination develop confidence to try new things
- Enhance cultural development, particularly if the work of local and famous artists, craftspeople, musicians, writers, designers, actors, choreographers and dancers past and present are used as stimuli. People all over the world use movement to celebrate their cultural identity and heritage.

This can raise children's awareness of different traditions, cultures and beliefs to develop respect, tolerance, sensitivity to working with others and an understanding of traditions, peoples, times and places from which dance has emerged

- Develop creative thinking, which is essential to all the other Areas of Learning

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- Provide opportunities for children to develop and apply skills such as: listening, responding, discussing, communicating, reflecting, problem-solving, persevering, collaborating, evaluating, observing, exploring, experimenting, investigating as well as manipulating their own body and modelling the movements of others by copying, shaping and forming. This will develop self-awareness
- Develop a greater awareness of and control over different ways of moving and use actions to convey special meaning. Greater bodily control may lead to greater emotional control
- Reinforce understanding: children learn by doing. Action words develop children's awareness of movement quality. e.g. 'heavy as an elephant', 'as light as a feather', 'as strong as a superhero', etc. Learning positional vocabulary in a meaningful context, e.g. 'under', 'over', and 'around' will enhance their understanding. Use of 'analogy' 'metaphor' and 'onomatopoeia' can also help develop children's use of language

Context for Learning

- Help develop children's imagination by encouraging them to respond and interpret different events, music and stimuli. Inventing their own movements, concepts and ideas and appreciating the dances of others will help them assess, manage, take risks and find solutions to challenges
- Help children learn about body language, social relationships and interaction skills as they participate and negotiate with others
- Help children explore the relationship between their feelings, values and experiences
- Improve muscle development, flexibility, stamina and coordination
- Channel energy positively, developing concentration and attention to detail
- Develop sequencing skills by ordering actions and contribute to the formation of routines
- Make learning fun. There is an intrinsic value associated with the process of creating, that contributes to well-being.
- Creativity requires time and space both indoors and outdoors. Children should be given opportunities to practise, refine and consolidate their skills applying these to create their own dances
- Practitioners should provide opportunities for children to develop their creative abilities across all Areas of Learning
- As children gain confidence and competence, practitioners should provide a balance of choice and structured activities in order to develop specific skills
- There must be a balance between structured learning through child initiated activities and those directed by practitioners