

Presented by:

Colorado Dance Alliance

On behalf of the Education Committee serving our greater dance community.

Dance Education benefits the student because it cultivates the whole person, gradually building many kinds of literacy while developing intuition, reasoning, confidence, imagination, movement, and dexterity into unique forms of expression and communication. If dance education is to serve its proper function, each student must develop an understanding of the essence of dance, the knowledge, skills, and artistic expression that enliven it.

A Dance Education Checklist

The following checklist provides a positive framework for those who teach dance and for every student of dance and their parents.

- ✓ College/university degree in dance
- ✓ Professional dance experience
- ✓ Dance certificate or recognition
- ✓ License
- ✓ Extent of pedagogical (teacher) training
- ✓ Continuing education and current re-education

Overall Structure of a Dance Program

- Kinesthetic (physical) progression according to age and level as well as individual corrections
- Appropriate skill level to age level
- Class progression: Meaningful plan for daily class that supports a healthy approach to training
- Technical as well as artistic dance theory/philosophy
- Emotional content with age appropriate focus (are students taught steps that suit their age)
- Technical content with age appropriate focus (are students taught steps that are physically safe for their age)
- Class size is manageable based on age and level and supports individual attention.
- Atmosphere is nurturing and supportive as well as disciplined
- Student rights to excellence and quality in their class
- General injury response and prevention
- Attention to sound principles regarding health and nutrition
- Classroom management reflecting efficient use of class time and respect among students
- Clean environment
- No food, gum, candy, etc. in studio spaces
- Cultural experiences and/or content and appreciation of cultural influences
- Historical artists, individuals, pioneers of dance

- Connecting dance to other art forms (composers, visual artists, actors, singers, and other subjects)
- Musical structure (tempo, time signatures), variety (jazz, classical, folk), and appreciation (understanding, recognizing, and discussing more complex compositions)
- Creative problem solving techniques

Other Good Practices

- Feedback and critique
- Improvisation and individual artistic expression
- Choreography elements (skills)
- Dance Literacy (vocabulary, terminology, kinesiology, history)
- Learning modalities—auditory (verbal), kinesthetic (physical), visual
- Overall objectives directed towards the whole child

The mission of the Colorado Dance Alliance is to support and foster dance in Colorado. The organization is dedicated to increasing the awareness of dance as a performance art and as an area of education; serving an esthetically diverse dance community representing a broad range of styles and forms by providing dance artists with tools which will enable them to design and further their careers in the field; providing information regarding dance to the membership as well as non-members.

Through movement our children will make their own contribution to our culture and the world of dance. Helping students participate and contribute is the best possible investment we can make in our children.