



Young Dance Fall 2021 Class Reports

Mondays

Dance Together with Julia

Dance Together has started off so sweetly, with the youngest YD dancers and their grown-ups reconvening to share space and be in community! In Dance Together, we have begun working on concepts of Stop and Go and have introduced a few fun props (hi, egg shakers) and gross locomotor skills (like rolling, walking, running, hopping). We've practiced our dance class structure of greeting each other, warming up in a circle, moving across the floor and throughout the space, and ending together in a circle. We'll progress with our explorations in the next few weeks by playing with Size (big and small), Body Parts, and Personal/General Space.

Creative Movement 1 with Denise

Our class has had a great start to the year! Dancers are getting to know each other, learning the class routines, and practicing how to be safe with each other. We have explored dancing in personal space, general space, low level, medium level, and high level. You can ask your dancer to show you what each of these terms mean! We'll continue to add new concepts to class every couple of weeks to encourage dancers to try new ways of moving, stretching them physically and creatively. At observation week, you'll see the dancers learning about different parts of their bodies and how they can dance with different body parts.

Creative Movement 2 with Denise

We are off to a good start with lots of enthusiasm in class! We have spent the first weeks of class getting to know each other and our class routines. The dancers have been exploring the concepts of space (personal and general space) and level (low, medium, and high level). You can ask your dancer to show you what each of these terms mean! During every class, we spend some time exploring and improvising our own movement in addition to practicing specific movement skills and patterns of movement. Next we'll be learning about how we can use different parts of our bodies to create new ways of dancing.

Hip Hop 1 with Waswa

Hip Hop 1 class is off to a great start! We're working on following counts 1-8, following the beat, learning about bounce, rock, and groove, and learning party dance moves, because Hip Hop is a social dance. The next few weeks we're going to build choreography and continue to learn and grow as freestyle dancers, learning the fundamentals of Hip Hop.

Hip Hop 2 with Waswa

Hip Hop 2 has been transformative. We're working on synergy with each other, retention and learning choreography, working on being well-rounded dancers including learning how to free-style, dance with each other, and be free in your movement. We're going to continue building our freestyle skills, being present in the music, and practice retaining information and choreography.

Tuesdays

Creative Movement 1 with Maria and Jahrari

We are busy having fun and getting to know each other in Creative Movement 1! We are learning imaginative ways to warm our bodies up such as getting our wiggles out. We will continue to play with props and find creative ways to dance and share how we dance with them. As we move into fall, we will explore the theme of autumn and all the fun imagery we can muster up by pretending to be a falling leaf or a big gust of wind.

Creative Movement 2 with Maria and Jahrari

We are getting to know each other really well by creating our own special Name Dance. We make a gesture or shape while saying our name and the group mirrors our dance back at us. We will continue exploring how our favorite animals would move, how we can dance with different props, and how we can mirror movement we see our friends doing. As we move into fall, we will explore the theme of autumn and all the fun imagery we can muster up by pretending to be a falling leaf or a big gust of wind.

Ballet 1 with Anat

What a fun and dynamic group of dancers we have assembled in Ballet 1! We have been working hard on our Ballet fundamentals, taking our time understanding our alignment and positions, so that we can execute movements safely and work our way up to bigger concepts. This is a big class and they have been so warm, welcoming, and supportive of one another, it's been wonderful to see! As the year progresses, we dig deeper into challenging new steps while exploring how what we're learning can be applied more broadly to moves like jumps, turns, and improvisation.

Modern 1 with Kathleen

We've had a great start to the year in Modern 1 on Tuesdays! We've explored different movement qualities (smooth, bouncy, sharp, etc), concepts of space and size, and have started to learn and create short phrases of choreography. As we continue through class, we will focus on some Modern dance history. Dancers will also continue to work on (distanced) partner work. In observation week, grown ups will see mirroring exercises, short phrases of choreography developed by the dancers, and have a chance to free dance with their dancer :)

Modern 2 with Anat

What a great group of dancers! We have a mix of dancers new to the school, new to this level, and veterans of the class. It creates great leadership and collaborative opportunities for all of the dancers. We have been working on getting to know our class routine: learning our set warm ups, the structure of class, and most-used terminology. Our first unit has been Body and Grounding, exploring biomechanics, isolation, initiation, and our connection to the earth as a way to support ourselves and move with ease. As we get comfortable in our routine, we'll be adding new challenges and reexamining what we know through the different concepts of dance: Body, Action, Space, Time, and Energy.

Wednesdays

All Abilities Dancing 1 with Aubrey

For the past three weeks, we have been transposing emotion, day-to-day action, and objects into movement. We have also been exploring the use of tactile objects with movement prompts, negative and positive space, and leading and following. We have been working on setting a routine for class with a mix of repetition and new activities, which the dancers respond to differently in each class. We are going to continue building transposing skills and movement memory, as well as what movement prompts are most engaging and fulfilling for the group.

All Abilities Dancing 2 with Gretchen, Brittany, Gabriel, and Andrea

It is such a joy to be able to dance with each other, in-person, sharing space! We have been refamiliarizing ourselves and redefining what it means to dance together, creating movement in our own bodies and in relationship to each other. We have also been developing ensemble movement, exploring a puzzle of how we all make one unified statement, honoring each of our individual ways of moving.

Thursdays

Let's Get Movin' with Blake

In Let's Get Movin' we have been focusing on having fun and building our stamina through dance! The dancers have been improvising some of their own movements through the use of score work. We talk about a dance score, which is similar to a musical score, but instead of dictating every note exactly, our dance scores provide a framework for the movement. These rules/parameters help the dancers move together without having to imitate exactly what each other is doing. We have been building our own scores and sharing ideas for how we like to move. Ask your dancer what the "Opposites Score" is! They should be able to give you an example of how we use opposite principles to change our movement styles. We're looking forward to sharing our dances and building our focus/stamina throughout the year!

Ballet 2 with Anat

After reconfiguring our Ballet class, Ballet 2 is off to a great start! We have been reviewing Ballet concepts, terminology, and exercises, while pushing forward with some more challenging steps. We are still developing our vocabulary and class routine, and will use this as a foundation for improvisation and choreography. As we move forward with technique, we will be integrating the alignment and biomechanics we explore at the barre into center and across-the-floor turns and jumps.

Modern 3 with Blake

Modern 3 has been exploring several principles of dance including: improvisation, score-building, floorwork and phrase work. *If you don't know what a dance score is, ask your dancer! So far, dancers have been getting to know each other's styles by moving together and witnessing each other. We are building community and talking about how we take risks in dance and use movement to explore big ideas! These young artists have been focused and working hard on learning new techniques such as: being upside down, using their six limbs (head & tail included!), and embodying words/ideas with their movement. We're looking forward to performing some improvisation and building new dance material together!

Modern 4/5 with Marggie

We have a really great group! I am inspired by the dancers' willingness to jump in and explore different styles and concepts. So far, we are getting to know each other and approaching modern technique through several ideas including shape articulation, spatial planes, and musicality. We are also spending time practicing improvisation scores and developing phrase work. In the coming weeks, we will focus on movement concepts of space and time as we dive into more improvisation activities and build longer phrases.

Fridays

Dance Together with Gretchen

These first classes have offered children their very first experiences of a dance class, exploring the space, bringing awareness to different parts of our bodies, and establishing some class routines. One of the routines we have established is beginning each class with a "tipping dance," in which caregivers hold their child closely and rock from side to side, feeling their bodies close together. Then, we move into a "dipping dance" in which the caregiver holds their child a little further away, giving the child a sense of their body independent of their parent.

Saturdays

Creative Movement 1 with Denise and Hannah

Our class has had a great start to the year! Dancers are getting to know each other, learning the class routines, and practicing how to be safe with each other. We have explored dancing in personal space, general space, low level, medium level, and high level. You can ask your dancer to show you what each of these terms mean! We'll continue to add new concepts to class every couple of weeks to encourage dancers to try new ways of moving, stretching them physically and creatively. At observation week, you'll see the dancers learning about different parts of their bodies and how they can dance with different body parts.

Creative Movement 2 with Denise

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Modern 1 with Tori

I'm very excited about our small and mighty class! We have been working with the dance concepts of Place and Size, using them to find new ways of approaching movement the dancers already know. We've taken up lots of space for jumping, hopping, skipping, and leaping, while the dancers define what's different about each of these skills. We've been creating dances together as each dancer contributes their movements and makes choices about what happens next. We are working with the ABA format which you could ask your dancer to tell/show you what this is! We will continue to develop our physical and mental skills layering more dance concepts over the coming weeks.

Performing Company with Gretchen and Anat

It is such a joy to be able to dance with each other in person, through space that we are all sharing! Every rehearsal, I have celebrated the fact that we are doing it! I have been resetting a dance to Gealynn Lea's song, *Birdsong*. At Observation Week, we will be able to show you a rough run through of the dance and we will be beginning work with Anat and guest artist Theo Langason.

Choreography with Gretchen and Anat

In Choreography 1, 2, our intention is to introduce/review tools that help choreographers make dances and to provide open ended time for choreographers to create work. In the 3rd class, choreographers began the process of making movement in response to music for the Fall Fling. We will be inviting other dancers to class to learn the movement to perform at the Fall Fling.