



Learning more than just dance!
By Jacqueline Hill

Teaching our youth important characteristics that will help guide them successfully through life isn't always easy. Encouraging them to participate in activities that pose more than just "hobby" like situations will help. Dance lessons are a great place to start!

Learning dance in a positive, productive environment teaches children many things, dance is only the beginning. Movement fosters a connection with the mind, body and heart. Even the youngest students develop a sense of self quickly in the right class. Children should feel empowered and confident. Self esteem is an important part of conquering goals, a skillful dance instructor can help your child learn and apply this by guiding them through success in class and on stage. By creating challenges, constructively criticizing, and constant encouragement, a qualified instructor will affect a child's life greatly. Respect, integrity, and team work should be present in every class, with an example being set first and for most by the instructor and studio staff. With these illustrations making up the surroundings children begin to emulate this behavior and understand how important these qualities are. Personal attributes like character, morality, and virtue should also be learned by demonstration. Good old fashioned hard work is also a great thing to learn!

Communication skills are also being learned. Many people find it hard to communicate feelings and thoughts with others. An instructor, who is proficient at verbal expression, who communicates openly and honestly with the students, helps to nurture the skill of communication in their dancers. Honesty is important to be able to grow and learn, without it forward movement in art is not possible. Students also learn that expressing feelings is an important part of art and life. In an inspiring dance class they do this physically, mentally and emotionally, also learning how to handle what feelings they have. Being in a creative environment encourages resourcefulness and innovative thinking. Thought processing and problem solving are also a part of an impressive dance class.

Translating all of these lessons into everyday routine does not take much but sometimes can prove difficult for people. A distinguished dance studio can help, making it fun to learn and grow as a person and a dancer no matter what age. Celebrate the challenge of these lessons by joining the ELITE Dance Studio family as we teach students how to dance and to enjoy a successful life!