

# Beyond the steps — ballet for little ones

— Queensland Ballet offers a range of creative movement programs for children aged 12 months - 5 years, both in schools and in the studio.

These programs are designed to be a magical introduction to the wonderful world of ballet, whilst cleverly empowering our youngest ballet lovers to be curious, imaginative, artistic and clever!

Dance provides opportunities for children to engage actively and creatively with the body.

Dance provides children with a unique way to develop literacy skills — to express themselves and communicate ideas and stories well before they can read and write.

# Why Dance?

— At Queensland Ballet, we firmly believe ballet enriches lives.

We know creative movement in the early years is a beautiful way to explore the world of magic and storytelling. This introduction to movement, through play, enables young children to explore and interpret the world around them, and to physically make meaning of their everyday.

— Inspired children build creative communities.





#### **Dance and Physical Wellbeing**

Dance promotes physical wellbeing. By allowing children the opportunity to engage in activities that teach whole body learning, little minds, young muscles and a healthy image are nurtured. Children will also increase their physical capacity in areas such as control and strength, gross and fine motor skills and coordination and balance.

Dance provides a creative way for children to understand and work with numbers and mathematical concepts

## **Dance and Numeracy**

In a dance class, complex sequences and groupings of movement enable children to recognise patterns and relationships. Furthermore, counting out loud, clapping to the beat, moving to the rhythm and then putting this all together gives children new ways to learn about math concepts.



## **Dance and Communication**

Dancing is a beautiful way to enable children to express ideas, concerns and feelings. Communicating in this way, with the body as the tool, lets young children find their capacity to share their thoughts in a new way, building confidence and an understanding for the power of language.

Movement is an integral part of human activity and a requirement for a healthy lifestyle.



For more information about Queensland Ballet's early childhood programs:

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References: Early Years Learning Framework for Australia, Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guide, Children, Meaning-Making and the Arts

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