



MultiKulti “MK” DANCE

Multikulti Dance creates an opportunity for children to immerse themselves in culturally diverse activities. We want to connect children to the world through music & dance!

Children naturally love music! Whether it's soft and soothing or lively, children feel it both physically and emotionally. Throughout their early years, children are learning to do new things with their bodies. Young children are also learning that movement can communicate messages and represent actions.

My name is Melissa Borja; I am the director of MultiKulti Dance. I have had the opportunity to teach children through adulthood who have ranged in all levels & abilities. My diverse background in dance has led me to train in Ballet, Tap, Lyrical, Modern, Salsa, and Zumba. I have more than six years of experience with choreographing competitive dance performances. MK dance was created to fuse all of those genres and create a platform where we can allow for cultural dance styles from other nations to be intertwined into our dance performances and lessons. I also created this company because I wanted more representation for latinos and provide classes regardless of their socioeconomic background.

Children begin to learn about the world by acting on objects and people, and they “think with their bodies” well before they think with words. This is why body movement is not only fun for children but also a good opportunity for them to solve problems. When you ask questions that call for verbal responses, some children may have difficulty responding in words; but when questions call for movement, children aren't limited by their verbal abilities.

As children grow in their appreciation of the beauty of music and dance, they acquire a gift that will bring them much joy. Music brings another dimension of beauty into our lives. Music and movement benefit a child's development in many ways. Most importantly, music and movement are social activities that help children feel part of a group. It creates the foundation for children to feel that they belong.

Multikulti dance aims for children to embrace emotions and express them through movement. We want a space where children can hone their creative strengths and see them come to life. At MultiKulti Dance, we guide our students through their creative process and allow each child to experience different perspectives and cultures!

Here are skills that music and movement can help develop:

- 1. Participating in a group***
- 2. Social skills***
- 3. Express emotions***
- 4. Enhance self-concept by sharing music and dance of each other's culture***
- 5. Refine listening skills- noticing changes in tempo or pitch***
- 6. Awareness of movement and body positions***
- 7. Creativity and imagination***

8. Learn new words and concepts

9. Explore cause and effect

10. Develop large motor skills

11. Improve balance, coordination, and rhythm through dance and movement activities

12. Improve small motor skills-learning fingerplays and playing musical instruments.

For more information on our program please contact: Melissa Borja 631.637.0240

Sources: The Creative Curriculum for Preschool Children by Diane Trister Dodge and Laura J. Colker