

DISCUSSING CHOREOGRAPHY

Finding something to say about student's choreography can be difficult. Here are some feedback/feed forward questions and statements for practitioners to discuss with children and young people to develop dance choreography and performance. They have been written for primary and secondary but some may be appropriate at either level.

Choreography

1. Find one movement that you could make more exciting.
2. Find one movement that could be performed in the opposite direction?
3. Find one movement that could be performed on a different level?
4. What different body parts could you use to perform a movement?
5. Find a movement or shape that you can embellish (make fancy; add detail).
6. Find a movement or shape that you can augment (make bigger in time or space).
7. You have some repeated movements in your sequence. See if you can include another movement or make the repeated move a little different.
8. See if you can perform that move in slow motion.
9. See what happens when you reach out or extend as far as possible when you perform that move.
10. I wonder if you can all use the same locomotor movement but travel on different pathways to that spot.
11. What would happen if you all started in different places?
12. What would happen if you all started your dance at different times?
13. What would happen if you all started the dance facing in different directions?
14. See what happens when you perform your sequence twice, but make the second time a little different.
15. What is your most interesting move? What makes it interesting?

Performance

1. Take turns to sit and watch your group perform their dance. What could they do to improve their performance?
2. Where should your focus be in the dance?
3. See if there is a moment in your dance when you focus out to the audience and try to engage them in your performance.
4. What facial expression would suit your dance? See what happens when you: smile; glare; frown as you perform your dance.
5. See if you can remember the dance without looking at the other dancers.
6. What could you do if you think you are going to laugh during your dance?
Possible discussion points/responses: Bite your bottom lip (gently!); focus on the back of the room; keep your focus away from your friends; think only about your dance moves; be proud of your dance!
7. What is the appropriate posture for the dancers in your dance?
If the appropriate posture is upright: "Try to keep your shoulders and belly button far apart as you walk forward".
8. If appropriate for the dance style: "Try to extend your legs and toes in your elevated moves". "Stretch your toes down to the floor when you jump up in the air".
9. Find some ways to make your dance flow smoothly from one part into the next.
10. See if you hold your final shape for 5 seconds before you move off the dance area.