

The Dance Lab

Creative Movement Newsletter

Learning creatively through movement explorations

Issue Two

February 2007

February movement classes focus on the theme of the Chinese New Year. Movement celebrations include spinning lanterns, exploding firecrackers, and the magic of the Dragon Dance. Each class includes a stretching warm-up, motor skill development, imaginative stories, and/or cooperative movement games, as well as, individual and group dynamic interactions. The movement classes use a variety of music, instruments, and various props to enhance the creative process of learning and exploring. The Dance Lab strives to incorporate classroom learning, using age-appropriate themes and literacy supporting materials.

Thank you for your interest in The Dance Lab's creative movement program.

Candace A. Carriger, MA
Creative Director

<u>Unit Theme:</u>	The Chinese New Year
<u>Objectives:</u>	To explore levels in space, To explore defined general space
<u>Motor Skill Development:</u>	Jumping, turning, spinning, walking, sliding
<u>Listening Skills:</u>	cues from drum and bell, verbal cues, following music cues
<u>Sample Game/Story:</u>	Movement game inspired by the story... <i>Lanterns and Firecrackers</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read the story, <i>Lanterns and Firecrackers</i>2. Divide the space in half with a tape line on the floor3. One half of the space defines the area for lanterns4. One half of the space defines the area for firecrackers5. Lanterns spin with purple streamers6. Firecrackers jump and explode with silver streamers7. Allow each side to have a turn moving8. Change sides and repeat game
<u>Literacy Support:</u>	<i>Lanterns and Firecrackers</i> by Jonny Zucker <i>This Next New Year</i> by Janet S. Wong <i>Hiss! Pop! Boom!</i> by Tricia Morrissey
<u>Relaxation:</u>	lay on bellies, rest head on arms, breath deep, rest in stillness
<u>Ending Notes:</u>	Allow children to expand their own imagination with discussions about the stories and movement experiences. Children's stories are a wonderful way to introduce movement activities. Let your child's imagination soar! Read a story... make a dance! Enjoy!