



Movement Languages in Early Childhood Education

Early Arts North East

A collection of articles exploring movement and dance in Early Years Education

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The impulse and experience of dance is *innate* in humans, an essential part of our bodies and mental biology. Infants 'talk' with their bodies from birth - with feeling for movement and for its dramatic message. They can coordinate all their body to another's moving, to share it's purpose in a dialogue or conversation. Babies excite affectionate parents to dance with eyes, voice and hands; toddlers dance together with arms, trunk, legs and feet, overcoming gravity, capturing its power to run, leap and fly.

Colwyn Trevarthen

Children are 'full of it'. From the moment they are born they are skilled communicators, competent beings who leave us in no doubt that we need a lot of energy to keep up with them as they grow and develop. They just don't stop moving ...

We need to understand as adults how vital this early moving and playing is, and we may have conveniently forgotten that most of us did it ourselves! ...

In joining with children, listening to them and talking in their first language, which is movement, adults will be supporting children to build firm foundations for the future and become adept as playmates themselves. George Bernard Shaw reminds us " We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing."

Jasmine Pasch

