

imovesdanceUK Ltd Case Study results 2011

Introduction:

This case study was conducted during term times (2011) in PE lessons with teachers from Infant and Primary schools in South Yorkshire, UK. All schools have been using imovesdance.com resources for 1 year. Imogen Buxton Pickles - company director - led the case study by working with each teacher and their class on a one to one basis, demonstrating and teaching a lesson in week one. In week two the participating teachers and assistants then followed on from that scheme adding to the previous sessions movements. In week three Imogen returned to assess the work they had done in week two and to start another scheme.

This formula worked well as Imogen was able to demonstrate 2 different schemes to each teacher. The teachers then completed this questionnaire regarding the dance resources and their usefulness in schools.

Q1. Please state what you/your children enjoyed about the theme you delivered in terms of the content and structure (how the theme built up) and what you feel could be added to enhance learning.

Teacher 1 - The Circus – The children loved the various parts of the dance. We adapted it to suit our class and they thoroughly enjoyed performing to others. They learnt to work together with dance and adapt movement in time to music

Teacher 2 - Nursery Rhymes – The children have been fully engaged with this scheme and participated fully. Due to time constraints I split each plan in two and cover each lesson over two weeks. I have also been modelling this unit to another FS2 teacher who has then thought it to her children.

Teacher 3 - Creative Combat – lots of movement and concentration is required and that's just what the children need. The style (Combat) was instantly appealing to all members of my class.

Teacher 4 - Countries – The group loved the music and the theme. They also enjoyed talking about their own experiences in the countries where we visited during the lessons (France, Spain, America and India), which inspired them to think of further movements we then added in to the dance.

Teacher 5 - Funky YogaFit – I loved teaching this scheme, and the children loved the warriors and wizards theme. Next time I will teach the yoga positions first and then add the story, rather than teaching the positions as the story progresses

Q2. Were the resources i.e. the video and lesson plans, easy to understand, follow and then teach? Please state what you liked and what you feel could be added to enhance learning.

Teacher 1 - I enjoyed using the video and planning – unfortunately we had little time so some parts were missed out. However despite this they loved the dance and I appreciated the planning

Teacher 2 – the lesson plan was easy to follow and the children enjoyed the actions. I did move away from the plan slightly to give it a more dance feel – adding in more actions like turns to join the verses and chorus (I'm a little teapot). I also added further actions to the Animal Fair

Teacher 3 - Easy to follow instructions (both written and visual) pupils had no problem following them.

Teacher 4 - The DVD scheme was great fun and the lesson plan easy to follow – a video of a group of children performing this would really help too

Teacher 5 – This scheme (Funky yoga) doesn't have video just photographs of the poses which are very useful – A video of the performance would be nice but not essential.

Q3. How would you rate the music CD supplied with your resources in terms of appropriateness to the theme and enjoyability?

Teacher 1 – Appropriate and enjoyable – I would have found it easier if the tracks I needed followed on from each other.

Teacher 2 The children loved the music and each time we heard a new song we discussed how it differed from the last i.e. speed, what movements we wanted to do to it – Animal fair made us want to wiggle – so we did!

Teacher 3 – The music seemed to match the activity (Combat) very well – it's very modern, radio friendly too which appeals immediately to children

Teacher 4 – The music matched each country well and motivated the children to dance

Teacher 5 – The music was good – perhaps needed to be slightly longer – if we had had more time to practice we could have got in to positions more quickly and then it would have been fine.

Q4. Do you feel that the imovesdance.com website is easy to navigate around and find your resources quickly? Please state any ideas you feel would improve navigation or presentation of the resources.

Teacher 1 – I enjoyed looking at the resources in our account and found the new site easily accessible

Teacher 2 – I found it clear and easy to follow

Teacher 3 – As long as you have your user name and password ready its straight forward to find what you're looking for

Teacher 4 – The website was easy to navigate

Teacher 5 – Yes easy to get around and understand

Q5. Any other comments e.g. teaching notes, what worked best for you, other ideas to extend the theme etc

Teacher 1 - We worked together as a class to adapt the planning to suit us which gave us great flexibility – thanks for all your help Imogen

Teacher 2 – I think the lesson plans are well presented and layered well. It allows a non-dancer the opportunity to teach dance well. Being a dancer I found that I use the plan as a base and then added my own things to it (which I think it's designed to do) so as people become more confident teaching dance they will begin to make it more their own.

Teacher 3 – Children still practice the moves from this scheme (Combat) as a warm up – so it must be a winner!

Teacher 4 - The ideas to help with behavioural issues – like using spots was very helpful and makes it far easier to teach

Teacher 5 – I have taught 2 schemes Countries and YogaDance for my 6 – 7 year olds, the themes are educational, fun and easy to teach – thanks Imogen for all your help, dance is no longer an issue!

Conclusion

Overall the feedback we received was extremely positive. We will be making the following amendments to the schemes below based on the feedback we received during the case study:

YogaDance – (5 – 7 years)

- Produce a short video to demonstrate the performance of the dance clearly
- Add an option to teach the Yoga positions first before adding the story

Nursery rhymes (3 – 5 years)

- Add options to include more movements to give it more of a dance feel

DVD Dance – (5 – 7 years)

- Produce a short video to demonstrate the performance of the dance clearly

Many thanks to the following schools for taking part:

- Lydgate Infants School, Sheffield
- Stocksbridge Infants School, Stocksbridge
- Abbey Lane Primary School, Sheffield

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