

How to Use It

- As you teach, assess your students' comfort, interest, and capacity to perform the activity and adjust accordingly. If an activity is too easy, jump to SPARK It Up extensions and add more difficulty. If it is too difficult, decrease the variables, simplify, and slow down.
- For the ballroom/social dances, we have not provided extensions for each day. If your students need to advance more slowly, teach fewer moves each lesson, and spend more time reviewing the moves you've already taught. If your students need more of a challenge, teach more moves each lesson, and teach them more ballroom/social dances from the MS or HS curriculum. No matter how fast the group seems to "get it," it helps solidify the learning if you spend a little time in each lesson reviewing what you learned the day before.
- Implement the Dance SPARK Event during the last days of the unit and provide an exciting culminating experience that will showcase skills and knowledge learned. Use the SPARK Event as a foundation for teacher and student creativity and expand the idea to make it relevant to your students, school, and community.
- Use the Integrations as background information during a lesson introduction or closure. Another option is to print all the unit Integrations from SPARKfamily.org and staple the entire set to a bulletin board in the sequenced order. Pull off the top Integration before the start of each new lesson.
- Generate interest for the SPARK Event with a bulletin board focusing on unit content and the SPARK Event theme. SPARK Event bulletin board plans and supplemental resources can be found at SPARKfamily.org.
- Review the assessment samples provided on SPARKfamily.org.
 - The Dance Self-Check is a student-paced assessment that can be used throughout the entire unit.
 - Dance Performance Rubrics are observational assessments used to collect skill development data.
 - Dance Peer Coaching Task Cards guide students in offering feedback to their partners for proper performance. Students take turns being the coach and the performer.
 - The Dance Unit Test provides students a chance to show off their new knowledge through a short, written test given at the end of the unit.
 - Dance Coulda, Shoulda, Woulda scenarios allow students to reflect and respond to situations they are often faced with during physical education/physical activity settings. These make excellent homework assignments and topics to discuss with a partner or in small groups.
- Follow the sample *Dance Unit Plan* (SPARKfamily.org), or use it as a guide to adjust and create your own unit plans which meet your particular instructional requirements.

Safety

- Dance can be scary for students, especially if they have limited experience.
- To interest boys, use examples of athletes such as Emmitt Smith, Jerry Rice, or Apollo Ohno from "Dancing with the Stars."
- Teach students that it is totally normal to struggle with dance, but it is important to respect dance as a great workout and athletic challenge.
- Praise students for taking risks and encourage them to keep trying, especially when they venture out of their comfort zone.

Limited Equipment/Large Class Ideas

Cooperative activities tend to work well with large classes because very little equipment is needed. When you have more than 40 students participating in "whole class" activities, try dividing the classes into 2 smaller groups.