

Laura Stokes

Pittsburgh, PA

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danceyourplanet.com

Professional Summary

Laura is an experienced dance educator, having taught in many settings throughout Pittsburgh. She has also taught Spanish, visual arts, and assisted in preschool classrooms. In all her work, Laura has focused on instilling creativity, cooperation, and self-discipline in students. With her experience, she is poised to start her new program, Dance Your Planet, for schools in and around Pittsburgh.

Instructional Experience in Dance for Children

Creative Movement and Intro to Ballet, 2015 - 2019

KST's Alloy School, Pittsburgh, PA

- Instructed young children with an original curriculum that helped students explore fundamental and creative dance concepts.
- Provided structure through music and exercise parameters, such as jumping as rain drops or finding a drop to stand on when the music stops.

Creative Movement, 2009

Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre Outreach, Pittsburgh Public Schools, Pittsburgh, PA

- Guided 1st and 2nd grade students in the fundamentals of creative movement on a weekly basis.
- Provided structured and joyful classes that enabled deep levels of exploration.
- Adapted to different spaces available, such as gyms, auditoriums, and hallways.

Ballet, Hip Hop and Creative Movement, 2008 – 2009

Hope Academy of Music and the Performing Arts, Pittsburgh, PA

- Assisted the hip-hop and ballet teachers in weekly lessons for elementary aged children.
- Helped students improve on their ballet technique and performance.
- Taught a creative movement class for 3 to 5 year old children and their parents.
- Helped children and their parents find confidence in dancing together.

Additional Experience Teaching Children

Art and Assistant Teacher in Spanish Immersion School, 2016 - 2018

Escuelita Arcoiris, Pittsburgh, PA

- Fostered functional skills, and intellectual, emotional, and social development in students using innovative approaches in emergent education.
- Provided daily art lessons to students involving innovative projects.
- Utilized paints, clay, pencil, felt, wire, and small and chunk loose parts materials to offer original experience.
- Co-facilitated outdoor education explorations every summer during the school's Summer in the Park program. Activities involved hiking, tree climbing, plant identification and animal searches.

Monkeying Around, summer 2018

Summer Camp, Winchester Thurston North Campus, Allison Park, PA

- Created and taught an original curriculum for elementary aged kids, dedicated to learning original movement games and outdoor activities.
- These included helping kids design obstacle courses with found objects in the woods.

Spanish Teacher, 2011- 2014

Montessori Children's Community, Sewickley, PA

- Taught Spanish to preschool through 6th grade students.
- Used an immersion-based curriculum to encourage natural language acquisition.
- Inspired an appreciation of Latin culture through music, dance and stories.
- Integrated the Montessori philosophy, a community focused learning method.

Education

A.S., Physical Therapist Assistant

Community College of Allegheny County — Pittsburgh, PA • Spring 2023

B.A., Dance

Slippery Rock University — Slippery Rock, PA • Fall 2006

Study Abroad: Spanish Language & Culture

Universidad de Costa Rica — San Pedro, Costa Rica • Fall 2006