

Teaching by Bill Harrison

Teaching is a vital part of dancer's success. "Teach" means to impart knowledge or skill and to cause to learn by example or experience.

How dancers learn can be several different ways.

- Observing

Watching experienced dancers execute the call. Show and Tell

- Listening

Explanations should be described in the simplest of terms. Use comparison of other calls learned to help aid in the success of learning.

- Reading

Provide students books or written out call explanations.

- Doing

Motor skill is 80% of how we dance. Repetition cements the feel and understanding of the calls students learn

We as educators should be aware of our surroundings and material we are teaching.

- Get to know your audience

Are they younger, older

Are they teachers, doctors, lawyers, engineers

- Speed

Do they move , slowly, quickly

Not everyone can learn at the same rate. Be prepared to adjust your teaching time. If your lesson is 2 hours only teach the first hour and half. Cushion the lessons by a couple of weeks to allow for such learning differences.

- Positive/Negative Transfer

When students have learned a call really well and there is another call similar they will learn that call faster. Once Right and Left Grand is taught and danced for a while coming back and teaching Weave the Ring will be easier and faster for them to learn, which is called Positive Transfer.

On the other hand when a new call is learned that is similar to another, learning the new call can be harder to learn. Scoot Back and Walk and Dodge may cause confusion due to the feel of the calls or Two Ladies Chain and Dixie Style To A Wave which is called Negative Transfer.

- The Effect Of Error

It's important to learn correctly the first time. If a mistake is made it becomes more difficult to learn properly. Do not let a student's error go very long without making a correction.