

OUR STORY

Chance to Dance began when I was a Nanny for a SEN family. The young boy, ASD, wanted to do everything his little sister wanted to do. So, we trialled a few dance classes, all which she loved, and they loved her. Yet they brought him out within minutes of the class starting and refused him back into class, saying he wasn't suitable for the classes, he was distracting others, he wasn't benefitting, they didn't know how to support him, this isn't the place for him. It was heart breaking to see him be rejected but mostly because our society didn't know how to make their settings accessible to all. I had to tell him why our society didn't know how to teach him and how the world was still unable to accept difference in those who didn't conform to a box.

So, after speaking with his family they saw a spark in me and encouraged me to go for it, start something no one else is doing, make the de-vision smaller. So, I believed I could move mountains and created a questionnaire that I printed and sent to hundreds of schools. One school replied asking where they should be sending the responses, in less than 1 week we had over 20 interested parents. So, I started. I ran 3 taster sessions and a xmas party – learning what it was I had to do to be different. I learnt I had to accept who they were and dance with them, they became my inspiration.

January 2013, we opened Chance to Dance with 2 classes. Each term we became more known and more families found us. We held showcases and the word began to spread. Now 5th year on we have 10 classes supporting 60 families to access movement, dance and music.

Though dance wasn't all we offered. We opened a Playscheme in 2015 where we offered respite to the parents. This soon became small trips with big adventures and the young people experienced fun, freedom and equality. I was lucky enough to travel to the USA to work at a special needs summer camp as an activities co-ordinator for 12 weeks and it inspired me that my dreams for each special need family can come true. So, I came home and opened a camp here. We began with a 3-day winter camp and now we run a 5-day summer camp.

In 2016 the Mayor of Reading contacted us to perform at her dance showcase to display the work of art that Reading has on offer. We felt humbled to be invited to a mainstream event to show the Reading community the work we do.

Vicky x

What Chance to Dance offer

All dance teachers and volunteers are DBS Checked, First Aid Trained and hold adequate training in Dance or/and SEN.

- Dance Classes in Reading and Bracknell – all styles of dance are covered
 - Glee Club – an opportunity to sing and perform in a group
 - Trips to the Theatre – Aladdin, Annie, Lion King, Wicked
 - Summer Camp – 5 days in August
 - Showcases – Annual performance

Upcoming Events in 2018

The sponsorship and support you offer allow us to offer the below activities for ALL children and young adults in the disabled community.

- Saturday 24th March 2018 - Chance to Dance Annual Showcase
 - Friday 6th April 2018 – Easter Dance Day
- Monday 13th to Friday 17th August 2018 – Summer Dance Camp
 - Saturday 29th September 2018 – Aladdin Theatre Trip
- **PLUS A MASQUERADE SUMMER BALL – SATURDAY JUNE 9TH**

