



Since 1993, the education program of Rebecca Kelly Ballet -- 579 Broadway, 4B, New York, NY 10012
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KIDS CO-MOTION – What’s It All About?

[ACTIVE LISTENING](#) [ACTIVE LIVES](#) [ACTIVE PLAY](#) [INTERACTIVE PLAY](#) [DANCE FOR FUN](#) [GOOD HABITS FOR LIFE](#)

A choreographer’s inspiration and whole child developmental approach results in a dynamic, fun, early childhood creative movement program for studios and institutions. KCM was founded as a studio program in Soho in 1992, and is now offered in nursery schools, playgroups, pre-schools throughout Manhattan, Brooklyn and Westchester.

Active listening and constructive play, using music that motivates child and adult alike, using the power of language and song are our tools to help orient the young child make discoveries in leaps and bounds -- Kids Co-Motion is all about enjoying basic dance expression *together* - because that sends a most important endorsement - about creativity, about movement, about being active. We want to make dance a part of family life. The experience of *learning about learning* through participating in dance adapts itself to children’s play to further language and vocabulary development, improve social skills, and introduce scientific and mathematical concepts while exploring the body in motion.

Founded in 1992 by professional dancers and parents Rebecca Kelly (choreographer) and Craig Brashear, KIDS CO-MOTION is a creative movement, music and song experience for young children. KCM provides an atmosphere of delight in learning and accomplishment about while building clear vocabularies of movement and speech. using quality classical, folk, and popular music from many cultures. In the toddler class together with the enthusiasm of the participating parent or caregiver, and the skilled example of the teacher, the young child easily gains the confidence to learn a wide range of movement through imitation, experimentation, a sense of joint adventure, and by inspiration. *“To us it is clear, children learn best in an atmosphere of enthusiasm, optimism, and forbearance, and where limits are clearly defined. Children are inspired and guided to acquire movement and music experiences with plenty of opportunity for modeling behavior.”* RK

KIDS CO-MOTION was selected to become part of the curriculum of the **Innovative Learning Centers**, which provide extensive daycare programs affiliated with hospitals throughout New York City. KCM teachers provided a series of 1/2 hour sessions for classes of two, three, four and five-year olds. The routines and methods were easily learned by daycare staff who participate in classes along with the children and the KCM teacher.

KIDS CO-MOTION classes have been offered in Manhattan at the Rebecca Kelly Ballet SoHo studio. KCM is currently part of the weekly curriculum at the Lamm Pre-School in Brooklyn, and the University Plaza Nursery School in Soho. As an independent contractor KCM has been provide in various studios including the West Park Presbyterian Church on the Upper West Side, 1993-2001, the Jewish Community Center, and the Reebok Sports Club for three years. In 2005 KCM’s program for 3’s and 4’s was selected to become part of the curriculum of the Riverdale Neighborhood House, a well established Pre-School serving its community since 1872, and in the St. Matthew’s Church, in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY. KCM has supplied creative movement instructors for Families First (Brooklyn), the Barrow Street Nursery, the Creative Steps Nursery School, the Childrens’ Aid Society, and Downing Street Playgroups.

PS 198 (Bronx) brought K-1 students on a **field trip for an on-site Masterclass** in KCM’s spacious unobstructed ballet studio in SoHo. MK Dance brought a group of 12 4-yr olds to RKB’s [Nutcracker Highlights](#), a first exposure to the classic holiday ballet. Since 1993, KIDS CO-MOTION instructor Craig Brashear has been providing KCM’s creative movement program in Lake Placid, NY as part of the Rebecca Kelly Ballet’s annual upstate [Onstage Summer Residency](#).



KIDS CO-MOTION PROMOTES

ACTIVE LISTENING ACTIVE LIVES ACTIVE PLAY INTERACTIVE PLAY DANCE FOR FUN GOOD HABITS FOR LIFE

Kids Co-Motion is typically offered in a LARGE OPEN, UNOBSTRUCTED, SAFE SPACE. The desirable dimensions of a suitable room are approximately 20' x 30'. A classic dance studio with a buoyant wood or Marley covered floor is preferred, with 4x6' mirrors along one wall. The SoHo ballet studio is 24' x 40.' Spaciousness is a huge attraction for urban families, who need dynamic indoor space. But for the early childhood in-school classes, we have also used a multi-purpose room with a low-pile rug. There should be elevator access, a place for strollers, a public bathroom, and a secure storage room for KCM equipment.

KCM EQUIPMENT IS MINIMAL. A CD player/ sound system or is required. While we do use a basket of musical instruments, a tumbling mat, and a variety of manipulatives within the early childhood class format, the emphasis of Kids Co-Motion is that *no special equipment* is needed to teach a child to love to listen actively and to respond joyfully in dance to music.

GOALS OF KCM Rebecca Kelly Ballet's arts and education programs serve the entire community. Starting with Kids Co-Motion, the lively, imaginative program introduces the joys of movement and promotes active listening to music to the youngest members of the dance community, along with their parents or caregivers. Kids Co-Motion brings children and adults together to stimulate dialogue and interactive thinking and playing, as body and minds are trained in movement.

The majority of parents respond intuitively and effectively to their young ones, but demands on parent time and energy sometimes subvert good intentions and "goodness of fit." It is useful for parents to seek outside-the-home programs that bring fun and focus to parent/child interaction and is enabling to both parent and child. Kids Co-Motion is a program which affords an opportunity toward achieving the developmental goals and milestones in a creative and imaginative way. It is a way to increase the vitality of parent/child interaction, developmentally sensitive to the loving interactional dance of infant and mother, while appropriately exploiting the ebullience of the physically autonomous and curious toddler. All this stirs the creative imagination and fantasy of the pre-school child into a new awareness of how the world and one's body works.

EXPOSURE TO THE ARTS FROM THE PRESCHOOLER THROUGHOUT THE TEENAGE YEARS, cultivates the kind of cognitive development that children need, before passive activities such as television, video and computer games entice them with non-physical alternatives. Dance training and performance ignite the imagination, and provide an absorbing physical outlet, bypassing some of the negative products of competitiveness. Dance allows young people to develop their social skills in a climate of friendship, good will, humor, open mindedness, along with setting personal and group goals for the highest standards for achievement. Dance students develop useful skills of physical effort and grace, artistic discipline, cooperation, and focus, which are good for school, and good for life.

OUTREACH In addition to the class and studio program, Rebecca Kelly Ballet provides exciting opportunities for families to enjoy dance performance through **Open studios** showing the work of teen students, and in [Highlights of the Nutcracker Ballet](#) where families watch professionals in studio presentations, and where tickets for children under the age of 7 years are free. Our goal – to make dance a part of family life!

KIDS CO-MOTION®

ABOUT THE FOUNDERS REBECCA KELLY BALLET and KIDS CO-MOTION

Rebecca Kelly, (Co-founder, Co-Director, Kids Co-Motion, choreographer, movement instructor) grew up in Great Britain, Washington, D.C. and the Sudan. Her training was at the Washington Ballet School. She holds a BA, Cum Laude degree in the History of Oriental Religion, '73, from Bryn Mawr College, PA. She founded **Rebecca Kelly Ballet (RKB)** in 1979, and has since created over 80 dances. RKB is chamber contemporary ballet company which has toured throughout Europe and the US. It is known for its 30-year youth outreach, performance program, ONSTAGE created for rural communities in upstate New York. Kelly has also designed dance for commercials, industrials, runway fashion shows, and musicals. Rebecca Kelly directs the KIDS CO-MOTION studio program in SoHo, and using her unique choreographic method, develops material for the arts enrichment, residency, visiting artists, and master class programs. She has been a guest lecturer on various subjects relating to dance, early childhood education and parenting. She is author a new short wellness video, [Dance for the Brain](#), and of the manual [Dancing With Delight, A Choreographer's Approach to Whole Child Development through Positive Learning and Creative Movement](#), 1995.

Craig Brashear, (Co-founder, Co-Director, Kids Co-Motion, movement instructor), from Norristown, PA has a degree in Physics from Haverford College, PA. He comes from a musical background in which music, theater and song were very much a part of family life. He danced professionally with REBECCA KELLY DANCE from 1975-1991. He is Executive Director of Rebecca Kelly Ballet. Craig has been teaching KIDS CO-MOTION classes throughout New York City and in upstate New York during the summers. He has worked with developmentally challenged pre-schoolers at the Lamm Institute since 1993-2019. He has taught KCM workshops for rural children in the Adirondack Mountains, for the Columbus Group, a group of asynchronously developed gifted children in Jay, NY, and at Asphalt Green's Summer Camp on the Upper East Side in Manhattan. He currently teaches dance in Pre-School programs including UPNS in SoHo and in the annual residency of Rebecca Kelly Ballet's Onstage Performance Intensive in Lake Placid.



Rebecca Kelly Ballet in SoHo KIDS CO-MOTION—THREE PLUS CLASS



Rebecca Kelly Ballet in SoHo KIDS CO-MOTION Mommy-and-Me CLASS

PEDIATRICIAN RECOMMENDED!

UNIQUE EARLY CHILDHOOD ARTS ENRICHMENT!

SKILL BUILDING FOR THE BODY AND MIND!