

Know Your Limitations! Ask Someone Who Does Know ...

Our limitations are that we do not know basic choreography let alone more advanced movements and steps. So we rely on those who do know, namely the young actors who take dance lessons.

We were making our plans to produce ‘Fiddler on the Roof, Jr.’ – as you might know, there is a dance routine in the play that requires much effort – “The Bottle Dance.” Well, we could provide the bottles and the hats and the black long-length coats, but we could not provide the dance steps.

Dan asked one of our young dancers to take on the assignment. She gladly accepted with reservation because she was in middle school at the time, but accepted the challenge anyway. She went home and became very familiar with YouTube videos of the dance. Once she got the steps down in her head and worked them out herself, her next challenge was to teach 4 other young actors how to perform the routine. As she discovered, not everyone had dance experience so she needed to encourage them with basic dance steps first and then approach them with the routine.

It took a while, but in the end, every one of those young actors learned the routine and performed it spectacularly during the play performances. We couldn’t have been more proud.



The Rest of the Story ...

That young actor/teacher went on with her dance lessons through high school and beyond.

She now works at that dance studio, teaches the cheerleading and dance teams at the local schools, and always encourages other young dancers and actors to at least ‘try’ as they themselves don’t know the extent of their talents

and capabilities. The confidence she gained from taking on the challenge of the ‘The Bottle Dance’ helped shape her life.

That is what we are talking about. That is what our program knowingly and unknowingly instills in young people. They can develop in their skills and confidence; some meet the challenges, some do not, but most try their best to meet the expectation of achievement.