A child’s interests are...
Places to learn and activities to enjoy **AWAY FROM HOME**

**Around your community**

- Take advantage of all sorts of fun and free dancing opportunities in your community. Take your dance-loving toddler along to neighborhood block parties, arts festivals, cultural celebrations of different ethnic communities, square or contra dances, and outdoor concerts, where you know there will be lively music and people moving to the beat. In these informal settings most participants are delighted to see even the youngest children join in the dancing.

- Gather information about attending free and low-cost dance performances that will enchant your young child. Some possibilities? Arts festivals, dance-studio recitals, student dance troupes at area high schools and colleges, and dress rehearsals of professional ballet companies are just some of the dance performances your little one might enjoy watching—and copying!

- Take part together in creative movement and music classes designed especially for toddlers and young preschoolers. Programs such as Kindermusik, which offers an introduction to music and movement for young children, are available in many communities. Watch community events and arts/entertainment calendars published in local newspapers and magazines and on television or check in your local telephone Yellow Pages to find out about such opportunities in your area.

- Don’t let music limit your small dancer’s creativity. Let him dance to all sorts of sounds you experience every day. For example, dance to the sounds of a splashing fountain or gurgling stream you pass when you’re out for a walk together. Listen to anything from birds’ songs to traffic sounds and respond with movement.

**Visiting friends and family**

- Many ethnic groups include dancing in all sorts of family celebrations such as weddings and anniversaries, birthdays, and holidays of every kind. Arrange for your young dancer to observe and join in the traditional dancing at such events. Talk to your child about the people you see dancing, why they are dancing, etc. Let her have the experience of dancing and interacting with many different people.

- Family and friends can make a great "audience" for a young child who loves to dance—clapping and expressing their appreciation, adding music to her performance, and more. Such spontaneous performances are convenient times for your child to learn and practice saying “Thank you!”

**Public library**


- Public libraries can be a great resource for recorded music. Check out recordings of music in styles that might not be part of your home collection. Your child’s dance experimenting will be twice as much fun when she can spin and twirl to a range of sounds from classical ballet to old-time jazz. Have fun!