CeilidhKids at the Fringe

Venue 170 – Laughing Horse @ The Counting House

10am July 31- Aug 24 (not 13 or 20) 45 mins

Now in our 13th year at the Fringe, CeilidhKids provides fun Scottish dancing for all the family. One of the most interactive experiences on offer at the Fringe, our sessions are suitable for families with children aged 3-7, but everyone of any age is welcome to join us for a dance in our ballroom under the chandeliers. Jump, skip, clap and twirl to traditional Scottish music, and learn a few very simple (often simplified) child-friendly dances that you might meet at a ceilidh or Scottish Country dance. Some are adaptations of well-loved dances, others have been newly devised in traditional style with younger dancers in mind. Nobody sits still at a CeilidhKids session so participants should bring comfortable shoes for dancing in, and a partner in the form of Mum, Dad, Granny, Grandpa or another older friend or family member. Adults with two hands can take a partner in each, so threesomes are welcomed, as are babies **who can bounce along** on hips or in carriers. Everyone is welcome to participate in whatever way they feel capable so don’t worry if you just want to watch at first, or maybe freestyle if that’s more your thing…

The emphasis is always on fun and staying within the dancers’ comfort zone. Nobody needs to let go of their partner’s hand if they don’t want to. Ceilidh dances have historically been passed down through families, with the older generation guiding the younger, and CeilidhKids celebrates this tradition. It’s also a great way for families visiting from outside of Scotland to try something local and child-friendly!

For the rest of the year CeilidhKids runs preschool family classes in Edinburgh, as well as parties, fundraisers, workshops, and school and nursery visits throughout Edinburgh, the Lothians and beyond. We are also happy to work with you to provide ceilidhs for those with additional needs, such as autism, dementia, and physical or cognitive disabilities. Initially conceived by Caroline Brockbank in February 2007 as a six-week experiment for her own children and their friends, CeilidhKids has flourished and expanded for over seventeen years, and hopefully will bring many more families together to dance in the future.

If you haven’t danced with CeilidhKids before, now is your chance - see you there!