1 **Skill Themes**  
&  
**Movement Concepts**

2 **What are skill themes?**  
► Fundamental motor patterns used in games, gymnastics & dance.  
► They describe “what” the body does.  
► Made up of locomotor, nonmanipulative & manipulative motor patterns.

3 **What are the characteristics of the skill-theme approach?**  
1. Competence in performing a variety of locomotor, nonmanipulative & manipulative motor skills.  
2. Provides experiences appropriate to a child’s developmental level.  
3. Designed to reflect the varying needs & interests of children over a period of years.

4 **What are movement concepts?**  
► Words that describe “where,” “how,” & “w/ whom or w/ what” a body movement will be performed.  
  ▪ Consider that:  
    ► skill themes = verbs  
    ▪ they are actions that can be performed  
    ► movement concepts = adverbs  
    ▪ they are ideas that modify the action  
  ▪ For primary grade children the focus is on movement concepts before skill themes.

5 **Movement Concepts**  
► **Space Awareness** – “where” the body moves  
  ▪ The ability to occupy or travel in an area while maintaining awareness of others.  
► **Effort** – “how” the body moves  
  ▪ Concepts of effort are applied in actual skill learning.  
► **Relationships** – “w/whom or w/what” the body moves  
  ▪ The concept of working w/ objects or people.  
  ▪ A beginning theme in gymnastics & dance.