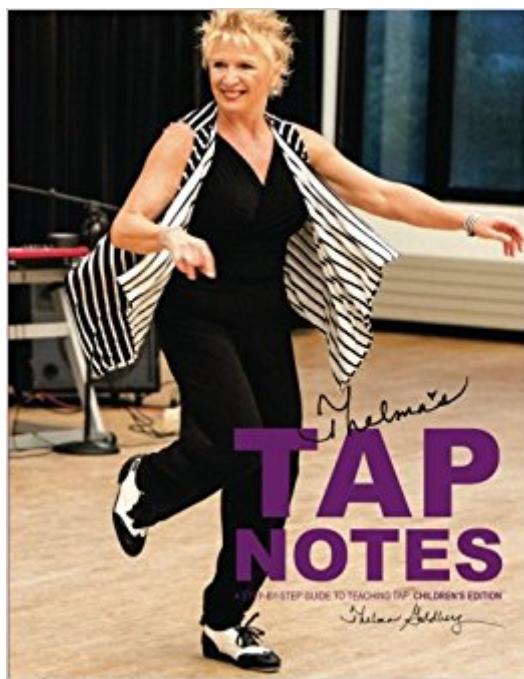


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# Thelma's Tap Notes: A Step-By-Step Guide To Teaching Tap: Children's Edition



## **Synopsis**

A step-by-step guide to teaching tap to children ages 6-12 in an easy-to-read format. Information about what to teach, when to teach it and how to teach it is included. Class Outlines, Music Recommendations, Combos, Choreography Ideas, Musical Rhythms, Improvisation Activities as well as Tap History provide material and guidance for both the experienced and new tap educator. Included are exercises and drills based on a series of progressively challenging rhythms to promote sequential progress in the major areas of tap education. Inspiring photos of tap students in action reinforce the passion and joy of sharing rhythms for both students and teachers.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Thelma Larkin Goldberg grew up in Cambridge, MA, where she studied dance at Bates School of Dance in Central Square. After earning her B.S. in Special Education from Lesley College in 1974, she taught in the Boston Public School system, earning her Masters in Special Education from Regis College while starting a family and relocating to Lexington, MA. After founding the Dance Inn in 1983, in the dining room of her home, Thelma eventually found her way to the rich tap scene in the Boston area, studying at the Leon Collins Studio in Brookline and meeting many of the friends and associates that have continued to inspire her since then. In 1997 she started Dance Inn Productions, a nonprofit organization, and served as its Executive Director, producing annual International Tap Day Festivals that honored master tappers with the Tapestry Award for Teaching. Among the dancers she has celebrated are Dianne Walker, Brenda Bufalino, Sarah Petronio, Buster Brown, Jimmy Slyde and Billy Siegenfeld. Thelma has taught at several festivals around the country and was on the faculty of the Boston Conservatory for many years. She founded and directed the

Pre-Professional Program of Tap City: The New York City Tap Festival and is artistic director of the Legacy Dance Company, the pre-professional program of the Dance Inn. Her studio has now grown to two locations, and she continues to teach full time while mentoring a passionate, young faculty. Her goal is to dance forever!

After taking tap while growing up then not tapping for about 8 years and coming back to try to teach it, I was struggling with figuring out how to structure classes and build exercises that would prepare students to progress. Then I found this book, and it was exactly the answer I was looking for. The breakdown of the exercises is easy to follow and the progressions from one level to the next are easy to see and understand. I especially love the music suggestions and the extra tips about proper technique. Lots of little things I had forgotten after years away from tap. I can't wait to start using the exercises with my students over the summer and next year. I highly recommend this book to other tap teachers looking for tips and ideas to structure their classes. Thank you Thelma for creating this amazing book!!

Fantastic resource! I attended a workshop by Thelma Goldberg, and her warm, outgoing personality exudes through much of this book as well! Clever combinations and a great outline for different age-levels for tap.

I don't know if it's only my copy of the book, but pages 86-98 are out of sequence. The pages skip from page 87 to page 99; pages 88 to 98 are inserted between page 104 and page 105. This is an unacceptable error, especially in light of the \$66.92 price tag on this paperback book. The content of the book is top-notch, but if all copies of the book are like this one, the publisher did a shoddy job.

Title: Thelma's Tap Notes. A Step-by-Step Guide To Teaching Tap: Children's Edition  
Author: Thelma Goldberg  
Publisher: Thelma Goldberg 2013  
Theme: Non-Fiction. Instructional Manual for teaching tap dance to children ages 6-12.  
Guiding Principles: Release, Relax, Rhythmic Progressions and Full Bodie Rhythm-Making (TM)  
Review by Eve Costarelli  
This is my first official book review! My dear friend, Thelma Goldberg, sent me a copy of her newly self-published book Thelma's Tap Notes. A Step-by-Step Guide to Teaching Tap: Children's Edition. This is a beautifully laid out manual and I love the catchy and useful sticky note style highlights throughout the book (I also received an accompanying sticky "Tap Notes" pad-which made it very easy for me to jot down my own notes as I went along the book.) Right from the very

beginning, Thelma lays out exactly what her approach is to teaching tap to children ages 6-12 and she methodically breaks down her methods level-by-level. I appreciate how Thelma refers to herself as a student as well as a teacher. I have had the pleasure of taking classes with Thelma, so I know first hand what a dedicated and enthusiastic student she is. I also have seen a number of her studios productions over the years and can equally say she is a committed, passionate teacher, choreographer and leader. Because of this, I can say that Thelma is deeply rooted and she never stops growing! Thelma's Tap Notes is guided by four principles: Release, Relax, Rhythmic Progressions and Full Bodied Rhythm-Making (TM). In the first part of the book, Levels, each age group: 6 & 7, 7 & 8, 8 & 9, 9-11, 10-12 is broken down into goals, review, musical rhythms, class outline, next step, combos, choreography ideas and improvisation activities. The second part of the book, Series, brings in more tap series needed for the growing dancer: Rudiment Series (courtesy of the Condos Brothers)-basically the ABC's of tap dance; Double Heel Series-to execute clear and specific single sound movements; Shuffle Series-to get loose and increase crispness of sound; Slap and Flap Series-do I hear a challenge??; Paddle and Roll Series-a very advanced series needed for really good technique; Spank Series-to embody the principle of release; and Time Step Series-a series that spans classical steps through present day creations. Thelma gets into the nitty-gritty needed to develop dancers feet, musicality and expression. The closing of the manual brings in various tap dancers biographies, tying the deep seated tradition of jazz tap to its modernity. Thelma has created not only a clear, accessible teacher's guide but a great reference manual for avid students and seasoned teachers. To note, I too am a children's dance teacher (flamenco, tap and yoga), and I found that this guide will be a great addition to my practices of teaching-especially in helping me to lay down my own step-by-step approach. Bravo Thelma! Encore! Thelma adds: I invite you and others to send me questions and comments so that I can continue to clarify my method in a way that helps other teachers understand my suggestions. Video support will be coming slowly to the website [...] to demonstrate the 'series' exercises that are at the core of my approach.

This book is an amazing manual for the tap dance teacher! I would strongly recommend it. The author (Thelma) is a master teacher, and she has constructed a one-of-a-kind curriculum for learning tap dance. Not to be missed!!!

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