

A Step Above Dance & Music Academy has always held high standards for letting our dancers be kids. Our curriculum is body safe to ensure longevity and minimize injuries. We also have a family-friendly dress code, and we always pick age-appropriate costumes. We have always felt strongly about keeping our dancers kids as long as we can to protect them from certain sides of the dance world that do not match up with our values. YPAD stands for Youth Protection Advocacy in Dance. They are a non-profit organization dedicated to ending the exploitation of children in dance. They focus on three forms of exploitation: sexual abuse, hyper-sexualization, and inappropriate physical exertion that leads to unnecessary injuries. Backed by research from the American Psychological Association, the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, the Federal Bureau of Investigation on Internet Safety and other accredited agencies, their standard, recommendations and suggestions have been thoughtfully crafted with the best interest of young dancers in mind.

In a world where sex, drugs, and violence sells, we join with YPAD to fight against this being the norm. We believe that certain trends and cultures do not belong when working with children and therefore will keep them out of our studio. We believe that proper dance education, healthy self-esteem, safety, and being aware of our youth's development is imperative to our studio culture, and we pledge to follow these standards.

Along with our mission to stay positive and make A Step Above a safe learning environment for dancers of all ages, genders, and backgrounds, we strive to make our parents and dancers feel confident in choosing A Step Above Dance & Music Academy as their dance family.