

BEST PRACTICES IN MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Music and movement choices are an opportunity to maximize creativity! If you're ever unsure about a decision, refer to our network of YPAD™ members for feedback from your peers regarding age-appropriate music and developmentally-appropriate movement.

Apply the following best practices to prioritize students' well-being:

Music

Search the vast reaches of music; expand your horizons beyond what's popular. Research song interpretations by artists other than the original—an unusual take on a classic, such as an acoustic version or remix, can be refreshing.

Lyrics

Commit to using songs with no swearing and no sexual, misogynistic, derogatory, or culturally misappropriated language or innuendoes. Remember that even if all the individual words in a song pass muster, the song's meaning may not. Do your research and when in doubt, choose something else.

Movement

With preschool and early elementary students, focus on basic foundational movements (hop, skip, jump, clap, tiptoe, etc.) that go well with easy-to-count music. With older elementary students, tweens, and teens, add more complex sequences. Stay away from facial expressions or movements that have sexualized connotations. Tap into your strengths for phrasing, pattern-making, and showmanship.

Culture

Be sensitive about your studio's approach to music, movement, or concepts that hail from or evoke a particular ethnic or religious heritage. Authenticity matters, as does honoring historical artistic roots. Always steer clear of stereotypes.

Controversial artists or themes

Sensitivity is of utmost importance here, too. Controversial artists and themes are complex and emotional. Use your studio's values and mission as a guide when making these artistic decisions. Base your choices on what you believe is best for the emotional and physical safety of the dancers. Their emotional safety and well-being always come first.

Source:
[YPAD™ Education](#)