

# IDAHO DADS MATTER!

*A Specialty Publication by The Down To Earth Dad® Featuring Idaho Parents!*

Volume 2, Number 3

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## The Singing Dad

*...He Encourages His Daughter to Dance in Life*

CALDWELL—Alejandro Aguinaga's six-year-old daughter Rylie likes dancing onstage like there's no tomorrow when her dad plays music for an audience. "I bring her with me to the all-ages shows and she performs with me. She knows all my songs and we get up there and dance together and she completely steals the show every single time," he said with a laugh.



"I make sure she gets a ticket so she feels fully included. She goes up to the person, gives them a ticket and she gets a wristband. Nobody really knows that she's part of the show until it happens. I kind of step to the side a little bit and she just steals the whole show dancing, and she's fearless performing to the people.

"She likes going to the park and riding bikes with me. We have a tandem bike that my dad built for us out of my old bike and his old bike. She and I ski together and she's learning how to snowboard which I've been doing since I was about 12 years old," he said. "We've both been skiing lately and we're both like fishes out of water messing around on skis, but she surprised me. She doesn't want me to hold her—nothing—she's just like, 'Alright, let me go' and then she skis as fast as she can."

"My dad always told me that subconsciously, people look for future partners who are like the people who raised them. I never really understood what that meant until I started being a dad to Rylie. I realized, when she was born, that I couldn't do certain things anymore; I had to reflect the characteristics that I wanted my daughter to seek out when she was older," Alejandro said, noting he and Rylie's mom strive to get along well and co-parent even though they live apart.

"I didn't know what love was until I met my daughter, until I loved my daughter," Alejandro said. "I've been in love before that, but when I had my daughter, I'm like 'Nah, no, no,' I was never in love before that."

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— Alejandro Aguinaga