

The Natural Entrepreneur

Thinking Your Way to Riches made Easy

From an early age on, children display behaviors similar to those of entrepreneurial self-made millionaires. Parents need to shoulder the responsibility in retaining and developing this natural behavior pattern, thereby ensuring that they have access to abundance and prosperity once they enter the big wide world.

Children are born dreamers and creators. Watch them at play and then try to argue against this statement. Children invent games all the time, but to have invented a game in the first place, they would have had to visualize it. Then they live the game whole-heartedly. Children do not hesitate changing their game plan if it makes for more excitement and fun. Nothing is cast in stone. The amazing thing is that the way children go about creating a game with which to entertain themselves, perfectly match the way in which the great entrepreneurial self-made millionaires out there get their businesses going. First they have a business idea (vision). Next they invent the businesses and then they live it. Child's play... Right!

Coincidence? I think not, so let us take the comparison further. Children take risks, they test the boundaries relentlessly and they are continually coming up with brand new ideas. The great entrepreneurs are perpetually coming up with new ideas, they test the boundaries relentlessly and they take risks. Think of Sir Richard Branson. Everything from record labels to airlines. That pretty much proves the point.

Next there is the matter of problem solving. Children are masters at this. Ever wondered how they got to the cookie jar on the top shelf? It is probably better not to know. Another perfect example of an entrepreneurial mindset...

In spite of these distinct similarities, a very small percentage of children remain entrepreneurs into adulthood. The demand to conform to standards set out at school stifles the creativity of children, as do the requirements for uniform thinking and behavior. Risk taking is discouraged and the norms against which success and failure are measured, quite different to that against which the great entrepreneurs measure themselves. There is also very little decision making opportunities offered in schools.

As parents we play a critical role in ensuring that our children's in-born entrepreneurial abilities are retained and developed. A good starting point is to keep stimulating your child's imagination. That is where ideas take shape and where visions are formed. Never stifle ideas or enthusiasm.

An important second step is to challenge your child to find different solutions for implementing his or her ideas. This encourages your child to overcome obstacles through thinking creatively and taking calculated risks.

A third step is to collaborate with your child to ensure that the execution is successful. Gently guide, and give constructive criticism where necessary and

always be ready to bolster their confidence in their abilities. This will create self-confidence and an “**I can**” mentality.

Like anything else of value in life, your child’s entrepreneurial mindset needs nurturing. By maintaining an encouraging attitude, persisting in your support and assisting them in their endeavors, your child will gain a sense of self-worth and a positive attitude towards life.

***For more information or to arrange an interview with Carrie Carter at 810.252.2281
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