

Mentor Sheet Module 2

Evaluating Good Ideas

Today your teen will be organizing their ideas and seeing which ones would make a good business. They should have all the tools they need on their worksheet. They will need you to help them keep things organized and they may want to ask you questions about some of the ideas they came up with during the brainstorming session from Module 1.

Your main goal is to guide your teen. Do not do any of the work for them. Let them go online, let them look at the magazines, let them talk to neighbors. Sure, you can give them a ride and help them find the right magazine and all, but if you start doing everything for them, they will not be able to run a business for themselves. Just consider your self like a mama bird, you have to let your chicks jump out of the nest or they will never fly.

What if it is not a good idea? OK. Let them figure it out. They do not need you to tell them. You want to be their biggest supporter. Our evaluation process on the teen worksheet will work out the many of their ideas.

What if they fail? It's OK. Part of developing any business are its ups and downs. Failure is ALWAYS part of success. If someone never fails, it just means that they have never tried. Let them try big ideas, if they are a success, all the more power. If they fail, they at least will go further than if they had never tried! Think about it, what if your child never fell down when trying to walk? They may be crawling for a long time.

What if I don't like the idea they came up with? Keep in mind, this is something that is important to your teen. It is your teen's business. Unless something is illegal or will cause harm to your teen, please support your teen. Your teen needs you to be an integral part of their life. If you can not support their idea, and it is a good idea, you may want to find them another mentor. It may be hard to let go, but honestly, it will be a larger reward in the end when your relationship with your teen stays intact.

What if I want to do one of the ideas my teen has? As long as you let them do their business, and you do your business, it is fine. Do not do anything that would interfere or compete with what they are doing. If they decided to build desks for their idea, what if you built chairs? How great would it be if you had a business that came alongside and strengthened their business? My only word of caution is that this process is for your teen, so don't get distracted with your own project when you should be helping your teen.

What if they become successful? That is exactly what you want . . .and what you expect. Teens will be successful if they keep focused on their one successful business goal. If they start making more money than you, you ought to be proud because you are part of that success. Remember, you probably did not have someone leading you when you were younger.