

Making Your Mark as a Teen Entrepreneur

Starting up an entrepreneurial venture is a great way for teenagers to develop problem-solving skills, learn about time management, express their creativity, and start thinking about their future careers. The first step is in finding something you love doing that has a [viable market](#) you can monetize.

What Can You Do?

A business has the best chance for success when the owner is doing something they're passionate about. While making money is, of course, a consideration, if you don't like what you do, the business is sure to flounder. Take inventory of your skill sets, your interests and talents, and decide what has the most potential to make money. You can do your research online by exploring other individuals and companies that are offering a similar product or service to get an idea of their markets, their pricing structures, and their offerings. If you're at a loss for ideas, you can also brainstorm by reading up on [top startup ideas](#).

Turn a Hobby Into a Business

According to the Top Trends Guide, one way to build a small business is to begin by generating an income from something you [already enjoy doing](#) as a hobby. For example, if you're a painter, you could exhibit at local art and craft festivals, sell your work in an online venue like Etsy or Artfire, or even teach art lessons at a community center or summer camp. If you're an animal lover, you might start a dog walking or dog sitting business, and if you enjoy kids, you could offer transportation to and from activities, working as a youth sports coach, or starting a business hosting children's parties.

Capitalize on a Skill

If you're a teenager who has a professional skill of some sort, you can use it as a launching pad for a business concept. For example, if you're a math whiz, you might find a tutoring business to your liking. If you have a [green thumb](#), consider a landscaping service or gardening venture. If you like to tinker and have mechanical skills, a small appliance repair or machine shop could be a way to go. According to General Assembly, building on something you [already do well](#) is a great way to get your feet wet as an entrepreneur and build your venture into something large-scale.

Establishing Your Business

When it comes to getting your business up and running, you want to be as professional as possible. You'll need a business license and a business bank account, and a website and social media presence can also help you attract customers. Writing out a business plan is another way to formalize what you're doing. A business plan helps you survey the [marketplace](#), develop a budget, and figure out what your start-up costs will be. For example, do you need to buy products, equipment, or supplies? How will you find and keep customers? Do you have a plan for customer service? Having these things in place will get you off to a great start.

Starting up a small business as a teen is an exceptional way to start developing an innovative and entrepreneurial mindset. Keep your time availability in mind when you're in the planning stages. If you have school or extracurricular activities to account for, you'll want to ensure you have a healthy balance. If you run into any roadblocks along the way, you can always reach out to your local small business development center or SCORE office for [guidance](#) and direction.

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