

A GUIDE.

Supporting your young entrepreneur

The time to support your child's entrepreneurial dreams is NOW

Your child stands at a critical crossroads. While many of their peers will follow the conventional college-to-career path, your young entrepreneur sees a different future—one they're eager to build with their own hands. This isn't just a passing phase; it's a valuable opportunity that shouldn't be dismissed or delayed.

Entrepreneurship: Not Just Valid, But Vital for Today's Economy.

The entrepreneurial path isn't just an alternative to college—it's increasingly becoming an essential journey for innovation leaders in our rapidly changing economy. By supporting your child's business aspirations now, you're positioning them for success in ways traditional education alone cannot.

- **Critical Skills Development Happens Now:** While their peers are studying theory, your child will be mastering budgeting, resource management, problem-solving, and communication in real-world situations. These practical skills are in high demand and can't be easily taught in classrooms.
- **Immediate Real-World Experience:** Every day spent building a business provides exponentially more hands-on learning than passive education. Your child won't just read case studies—they'll be creating their own success story.
- **Accelerated Personal Growth:** Parents have witnessed remarkable transformations in their entrepreneurial children. They didn't just start a business—they developed confidence, maturity, and purpose that college alone might have taken years to foster.

Solving Today's Problems Can't Wait: The world needs innovative solutions now. Your child's fresh perspective and energy could address challenges that established businesses haven't solved.

Addressing Your Concerns—Time Is of the Essence

We understand your hesitation, but consider these urgent realities:

- **College Will Always Be There:** Universities increasingly value entrepreneurial experience and offer deferred enrollment options. Your child won't miss their education opportunity—they'll enhance it with real-world context when they do attend. Every day spent exploring their business idea now is an investment in their future focus and direction.
- **This Isn't Just a Phase—It's Potential Being Realized:** A genuine entrepreneurial drive represents your child's authentic self emerging. Each moment spent doubting rather than supporting this passion risks dampening their innovative spirit. Some parents initially hope their children would choose college, but quickly recognize that supporting their business passion was crucial for their development.
- **Financial Security Starts with Financial Literacy:** There's no better time than now for your child to learn financial management. Programs like "Leap Year" offer immediate funding opportunities that could jumpstart their venture. Some founders begin generating income early by actively pursuing clients—proving entrepreneurship can provide financial lessons and rewards simultaneously.
- **Life-Defining Experiences Happen Through Action:** While some parents worry about missed opportunities, entrepreneurship offers richer experiences than many traditional paths. Your child will build a network of professional contacts, mentors, and customers that will benefit them throughout their life.



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It's a Gap Year with Purpose

Your Support Is Crucial—Starting Today

Your immediate actions can dramatically impact your child's success:

- **Listen and Validate NOW:** Take their ideas seriously today. Your validation doesn't just encourage them—it empowers them. Your unconditional support creates the foundation for their confidence.
- **Plan Together—This Week:** Sit down with your child immediately to help structure their thinking. A Lean Canvas business model can be completed in an afternoon but will guide months of focused work.
- **Connect Them with Resources—Immediately:** Programs like StartingBlock's "Leap Year" have limited enrollment and specific application deadlines. Waiting means potentially missing crucial support systems designed specifically for young entrepreneurs. Get your application in early.
- **Share Your Expertise—Today:** Don't wait for them to struggle—offer your business insights proactively. Actively share your business experience, and give young entrepreneurs a glimpse of the work required.
- **Create Space for Success—Now:** Help establish their workspace and make introductions to your network this week. These practical steps signal your commitment to their vision.
- **Frame Failures as Critical Learning—From Day One:** Establish immediately that setbacks are valuable data points, not disappointments. As one founder stated, "never stop learning and growing and if something doesn't work, shift gears, keep your head up."
- **Respect Their Journey—Starting Immediately:** Your ongoing respect for their decisions builds the confidence they need to navigate the entrepreneurial landscape.

Act Now: Structured Programs Create Immediate Opportunities

StartingBlock's "Leap Year" program offers the structure and community that transforms entrepreneurial potential into business reality. With time-sensitive application periods and limited spots, exploring this opportunity should happen immediately. The program provides:

- Structured curriculum focused on immediate business development
- Access to mentors who accelerate learning and connections
- Workshops that build critical skills in real-time
- Community support from peers and established entrepreneurs
- Prize money opportunities to fund venture development

Trust Your Child's Vision Today

The young adult you've raised has potential that shouldn't wait to be realized. By actively supporting their entrepreneurial journey now, you're not just enabling a business—you're empowering a founder who could create solutions, jobs, and innovations our world urgently needs.

The traditional path will always be available, but this moment of entrepreneurial passion and potential is precious. Don't let it pass unrecognized or unsupported.

Your child's entrepreneurial journey begins today. Will you be their most valuable supporter?

