

Teens can find summer jobs this year with a little entrepreneurial effort

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Know a teen who's looking for a summer job? Entrepreneurial gigs - like offering to teach tech skills to seniors - may be the best bet in a tough market.

Twelve-year-old twins Jake and Emma Johnson can't wait till school's out, but they won't be spending their summer letting the grass grow under their feet. They make money by tutoring other kids, babysitting, running errands and even selling pink lemonade and homemade cookies on their Upper West Side block.

"For kids, working in the summer isn't only about getting rich," says their proud mom **Tory Johnson**, CEO of Women for Hire. "It's about building a worth ethic and developing a sense of responsibility."

And, she adds, if kids can't find traditional jobs this year, there are plenty of entrepreneurial opportunities out there.

Alan Lysaght, co-author of "The ABCs of Making Money for Teens," says the most important attribute a kid can have when looking for work or starting up a homegrown business is a great attitude.

"Kids need to find a way to stand out in a positive way," he says. "Instead of walking into a place and just asking if there is a job available, walk in and say, I would love to work here! If your attitude is down in the trough, you're simply not marketable."

If a child wants to go the entrepreneurial route this summer because the job market's so tight, help her decide what she is passionate about, Lysaght says. If she is good at computers, maybe she can tutor seniors in computer skills, or if your child loves music, check out volunteer opportunities in the local library with audio books.

Growing and selling garden fruits and vegetables, making jewelry, packing lunches for young kids (a great help for a working mom), and transferring home videos and slides to DVDs are other possible opportunities for kids, Lysaght says.

Help your child find something entrepreneurial by honing in on his passions, Johnson says. "Maybe they can build a website, teach senior citizens how to load an iPod, or how to use Skype," she suggests. "There are some really interesting things that can be done in the field of technology."

If you're looking for a regular job and getting ready for an interview, it's important to be well-groomed, according to **Mark Hansen**, author of "Success 101 for Teens."

"Don't dress for the job you have - dress for the job you want," he advises.

Above all, remember that it's not all about you, Hansen says. Companies want to know how they'll benefit from hiring you, so when you're preparing for an interview, think about how you'd answer the question, "What can you do for the company?"

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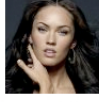
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