

There are so many awesome ideas for Kidpreneur businesses. Here are some you might want to run with – or maybe you have a great idea of your own.

Your business will sell either a product (that's something tangible like a potted plant or a cupcake) or a service (i.e. car washing, dog walking). To make it easy for you to navigate, we've divided it into a whole lot of sub-categories under the main headings of Products and Services.

PRODUCTS

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PRODUCTS

1. MAKING THINGS

This is a fun way to make money, particularly if you're a bit arty and crafty. And the ideas are endless!

What you need to know first:

Know your customer: Have a firm idea of who your market will be (mums and dads, kids at school, markets-goers) as that will determine what you make.

Test case: If you really want to be a professional, make a couple of samples and test them on your preferred customers to see if that's what they want.

Trends and fads: check out online or at markets what's around in your chosen area of manufacturing, and see how much they're charging.

Location, location: Where are you going to sell these products – i.e, at a market, through word-of-mouth, from a stand out the front of your house, mail-order?

What's your timing: Some products might sell best around Christmas time, holiday periods or Mothers/Fathers days.

Costs: Remember, you'll need to have some raw materials to make your products so factor in those costs when setting your price and profit margins.

Permission: Make sure you have the permission of your parents/teacher – and they are aware of your full business plan.

Here are some ideas:

- ☆ Homemade jewellery
- ☆ Candles/soaps
- ☆ T-Shirts with slogans or pictures
- ☆ Cool badges
- ☆ Shells
- ☆ Soft toys
- ☆ Cushions, wall hangings and other soft furnishings
- ☆ Pet rocks
- ☆ Placemats
- ☆ Kite-making kits
- ☆ Homemade paper
- ☆ Greeting cards for Christmas, birthdays and other occasions
- ☆ Party invitations
- ☆ Clothing you've sewn yourself
- ☆ Appliquéd singlets and T-shirts
- ☆ Knitted/crocheted items like scarves and beanies
- ☆ Photo frames

2. FOOD AND DRINKS

Eating and drinking are a couple of life's essentials so if you provide the right yummy stuff at the right price, you're bound to do well. The success of selling food products is why schools will hold cake stalls etc to raise money.

What you need to know:

Timing: Most food and drinks will need to be made shortly before sale so you'll need to be well organised.

Location: Make sure you plan to sell your products from a place with lots of foot-traffic. Or you could consider taking pre-orders (a bit like a school canteen does).

Labour intensive: It can be hard work preparing enough product for sale.

Promotion: Make sure people are aware of what, when and where you are selling by marketing and advertising your wares.

Costs: Factor in how much you need to spend on raw materials.

Permission: If you're using your parents' kitchen or a school area, make sure you have relevant adult permission.

Here are some ideas

- ☆ Juice/lemonade
- ☆ Jams and preserves
- ☆ Muffins and cupcakes
- ☆ Slices and biscuits
- ☆ Sweets and treats (e.g. home-made chocolates)
- ☆ Packets of homemade muesli
- ☆ Dips
- ☆ Flavoured vinegars and olive oils
- ☆ Chutneys and relishes

3. PLANTS AND FLOWERS

Maybe you have a big garden or growing space to plant lots of herbs and veggies. Or even a great balcony spot for growing lots of potted plants. Or is your garden filled with beautiful flowers and foliage that your parents won't mind you cutting and turning into posies?

What you need to know:

It's seasonal: You'll need to do your research and find out what plant grows best when.

Lots of care: Many plants need some nurturing, particularly if you're growing from a seed.

Temperamental: A bad frost or a hot weekend away when no one was around to water can destroy or cut your crop.

Costs: While it's cheap to grow from a seed, it can be a long and time-consuming task. Seedlings are more instant but cost more. Maybe your parents have plants from which cuttings can be taken and used to grow new plants.

Permission: If you're using your parents' plants or garden areas, get their support.

Here are some ideas:

- ☆ Pot plants
- ☆ Cactus gardens
- ☆ Bonsai plants
- ☆ Collect wild berries
- ☆ Grow herbs/vegetables
- ☆ Pick and sell fruit
- ☆ Decorated pots for the garden
- ☆ Cut flowers/posies

4. PETS ETC

Breeding pets, or other creatures to feed pets, can be a lucrative business if you know what you're doing. Or perhaps you have some chooks or ducks which lay enough eggs to sell. For those of you with livestock like horses, sheep or cows, you can collect the manure to sell as garden food, fertiliser or composting material.

What you need to know:

Staying alive: The problem with animals, particularly ones with shorter life spans like worms, mice and fish, is that they can die before you get to sell them.

Target markets: Look at setting up deals with local pet shops who are probably keen to get their hands on new stock and creatures which are used as pet food.

Breed like rabbits: There's a reason for that saying, and it could also be applied to mice so make sure you don't end up with a house overrun by rodents.

Pre-ordering: All these pet-related products would respond well to a pre-ordering arrangement with customers.

Permission: Make sure your mum and dad are okay with their house becoming a breeding ground or a fertiliser factory.

Here are some ideas:

- ☆ Supply worms
- ☆ Breed rodents for pets (e.g guinea pigs, rabbits, mice)
- ☆ Breed goldfish
- ☆ Grow and sell plants for aquariums
- ☆ Breed birds
- ☆ Sell eggs
- ☆ Sell manure for gardening

5. RESELLING & RECYCLING

There's that old saying that one person's trash is another's treasure – and there's been many a viable business made out of reselling and recycling used goods. Your own house may be trove of no-longer-wanted treasures. Or maybe you have a good source of secondhand goods from which you can purchase cheaply and sell on to customers at a higher price.

What you need to know:

Research: Check out a local secondhand market to get an idea of what stuff is selling for.

Markets: If you're going to rent a stall at a market or car-boot sale, you will have to fork out a minimum of \$20 for the privilege.

Garage sale: This is a cheap (hopefully, free) option but you'll need to ensure you're on a well trafficked street or that you've advertised it well with posters around the streets. Maybe you can get an ad in your school newsletter?

Environmentally sound: Re-using and recycling are "green" activities as we all try to lessen our carbon footprint.

Permission: Make sure mum and dad are okay with the stuff you plan to sell and you're not accidentally selling off any family heirlooms.

TIP: Offer to clean out Grandpa's shed – for small fee, of course. There might be huge amounts of stuff he'll be more than happy for you to sell.

Here are some ideas:

- ☆ Secondhand books
- ☆ Used toys
- ☆ Secondhand and vintage clothing and shoes
- ☆ Collect golf balls

SERVICES

6. IN THE GARDEN

Become a garden 'handy-kid' and you could find your services in hot demand. Not only will Mum and Dad appreciate some help in the garden, you'll probably find many of your neighbours will too.

What you need to know:

Market your services: Tell your parents, your friends and your neighbours about the services you're offering. You could print up a flyer to give to them.

Finding time: Gardening can be a fairly time consuming task so make sure you only take on jobs you can fit in around school, homework and other commitments.

Keep safe: Do not go into houses of people you don't know. Keep your customer base to people who are known to you and your family. And make sure your parents are aware of where you are at all times.

Setting a fee: Do some research into what other businesses charge, remembering that you're a kid without all the overheads, and come up with a fair and reasonable price. Some customers may want to negotiate.

Be careful: Wear gardening gloves and always wash hands well after handling potting mix, insecticides and fertilizers.

Permission: Make sure your parents are aware of where you are and what jobs you are doing at all times.

Here are some ideas:

- ☆ Lawn mowing
- ☆ Weeding
- ☆ Pruning and hedge trimming
- ☆ Watering
- ☆ Leaf raking
- ☆ Fertilising
- ☆ General garden maintenance
- ☆ Planting
- ☆ Cleaning up animal droppings

7. OUTSIDE THE HOUSE

Just like in the garden, outside the house there are a whole lot of tasks around which you can base your business. In today's busy world people just don't have the time to keep up with simple tasks like pool or window cleaning. Take advantage of that!

What you need to know:

Market your services: Tell your parents, your friends and your neighbours about the services you're offering. You could print up a flyer to give to them.

Finding time: Some of these jobs, like window cleaning, can be fairly time consuming so make sure you only take on jobs you can fit in around school, homework and other commitments.

Keep safe: Do not go into houses of people you don't know. Keep your customer base to people who are known to you and your family. And make sure your parents are aware of where you are at all times.

Setting a fee: Do some research into what other businesses charge, remembering that you're a kid without all the overheads, and come up with a fair and reasonable price. Some customers may want to negotiate.

Be careful: If you're up ladders or handling heavy-duty cleaners, make sure you do so with caution.

Permission: Make sure your parents are aware of where you are and what jobs you are doing at all times.

Here are some ideas:

- ☆ Pool cleaning
- ☆ Car washing
- ☆ Boat washing
- ☆ Window cleaning
- ☆ Cleaning gutters
- ☆ Aluminium can collecting for money
- ☆ Sweeping

☆ Fence painting

8. INSIDE THE HOME

Your mum and dad are always moaning that their too busy to get all the domestic stuff done.. Who's got time to clean the house these days? Or polish the silver and auditing the linen cupboard? You do – and you can get up and running a tidy little business out of it.

What you need to know:

Market your services: Tell your parents, your friends and your neighbours about the services you're offering. You could print up a flyer to give to them.

Finding time: Some of these jobs, like spring cleaning, can be fairly time consuming so make sure you only take on jobs you can fit in around school, homework and other commitments.

Keep safe: Do not go into houses of people you don't know. Keep your customer base to people who are known to you and your family. And make sure your parents are aware of where you are at all times.

Setting a fee: Do some research into what other businesses charge, remembering that you're a kid without all the overheads, and come up with a fair and reasonable price. Some customers may want to negotiate.

Be careful: If you're up ladders or handling heavy-duty cleaners, make sure you do so with caution.

Permission: Make sure your parents are aware of where you are and what jobs you are doing at all times.

Here are some ideas:

- ☆ General household jobs like washing, ironing, vacuuming, mopping the floors and changing the sheets
 - ☆ Spring cleaning
 - ☆ Cleaning out the cupboards and creating order
 - ☆ Polishing the silver
 - ☆ Watering the plants
 - ☆ Compiling photo albums
 - ☆ Doing the home filing
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9. PEOPLE SERVICES

From babysitting and tutoring to delivering groceries and helping out at parties, there are so many tasks people are more than willing to pay others – like you – to do.

What you need to know:

Market your services: Tell your parents, your friends and your neighbours about the services you're offering. You could print up a flyer to give to them.

Finding time: Some of these job may be quite time consuming so make sure you only take on those assignments you can fit in around school, homework and other commitments.

Keep safe: Do not go into houses of people you don't know. Keep your customer base to people who are known to you and your family. And make sure your parents are aware of where you are at all times.

Setting a fee: Do some research into what other businesses charge, remembering that you're a kid without all the overheads, and come up with a fair and reasonable price. Some customers may want to negotiate.

Be careful: If you're up ladders or handling heavy-duty cleaners, make sure you do so with caution.

Permission: Make sure your parents are aware of where you are and what jobs you are doing at all times.

Here are some ideas:

- ☆ Baby Sitting
- ☆ Garage sale on consignment
- ☆ Instrumental Music for Functions
- ☆ Being “DJ” at a party
- ☆ Providing company for older people
- ☆ Delivering groceries
- ☆ Sell things for others on eBay for commission
- ☆ Waiters/waitresses at parties
- ☆ Tutoring small children
- ☆ Helping at kids’ parties (e.g. entertaining or face painting)
- ☆ Providing holiday activities for small children

10. ANIMAL DUTIES

Pet care is time-consuming but must be done. Dogs need walking, fish tanks need cleaning and poop must be picked up. Who are they going to call? Make sure it’s you!

What you need to know:

Market your services: Tell your parents, your friends and your neighbours about the services you’re offering. You could print up a flyer to give to them.

Finding time: Some of these job may be quite time consuming so make sure you only take on those assignments you can fit in around school, homework and other commitments.

Keep safe: Do not go into houses of people you don’t know. Keep your customer base to people who are known to you and your family. If you’re walking dogs, do it at safe times, preferably with someone. And make sure your parents are aware of where you are at all times.

Setting a fee: Do some research into what other businesses charge, remembering that you’re a kid without all the overheads, and come up with a fair and reasonable price. Some customers may want to negotiate.

Be careful: Dogs bite, cats scratch and animal poop is toxic.

Permission: Make sure your parents are aware of where you are and what jobs you are doing at all times.

Here are some ideas:

- ☆ Pet feeding
- ☆ Fish tank cleaning
- ☆ Dog walking
- ☆ Pet washing
- ☆ Pet trimming and grooming
- ☆ Pet training
- ☆ Pooper scooping

11. ON THE COMPUTER

You’re a kid so you know the computer back-to-front. Many others, however, like Mum and Dad or their friends and neighbours may have no idea how to install programs, set up the computer’s wi-fi or start an email account. Maybe the need a web page designed and you know exactly the right program to do this.

What you need to know:

Market your services: Tell your parents, your friends and your neighbours about the services you're offering. You could print up a flyer to give to them. Or seeing it's all about computers, send out an email!

Keep safe: Do not go into houses of people you don't know. Keep your customer base to people who are known to you and your family. And make sure your parents are aware of where you are at all times.

Setting a fee: Charge an hourly rate that you feel is fair, or you can come up with a job price in negotiation with your customer.

Permission: Make sure your parents are aware of where you are and what jobs you are doing at all times.

Here are some ideas:

- ☆ Setting up computer systems
- ☆ Installing new programs and updates
- ☆ Setting up email accounts
- ☆ Teaching programs and general computer use
- ☆ Designing a web page
- ☆ Computer-based graphic design

12. HELPING LOCAL BUSINESSES

Your local businesses often need odd jobs done and are happy to fit in with school hours. It could be filing, a bit of office cleaning or some photocopying. Delivering the local newspaper is one of the classic jobs for school kids.

What you need to know:

Visit the businesses: And ask if they have any odd jobs they'd like done after school hours.

Keep safe: Make sure your parents are aware of where you are at all times and the work conditions are kid-friendly and respectful.

Getting paid: Make sure you know in advance what you will be paid for your work.

Permission: Make sure your parents are aware of where you are and who you're working with.

Here are some ideas:

- ☆ Newspaper delivery
- ☆ Letterboxing leaflets
- ☆ Office duties like filing and photocopying
- ☆ Cleaning work places
- ☆ Picking fruit and vegetables at market gardens
- ☆ Helping at local cafés