

start a business as a teenager

Start a Business as a Teenager: A Guide to Turning Your Ideas Into Reality

Start a business as a teenager and you're stepping into a world full of opportunities, creativity, and learning. Many successful entrepreneurs began their journeys early, proving that age is just a number when it comes to innovation and determination. If you're a teenager with a spark of an idea or a passion you want to turn into profit, this guide will help you navigate the exciting path of launching your own venture.

Why Start a Business as a Teenager?

Starting a business at a young age offers a unique advantage. Not only do you gain practical skills like problem-solving, communication, and financial literacy, but you also build confidence and a strong work ethic early on. Teen entrepreneurship can pave the way for future career success, teaching lessons that traditional schooling might not cover.

Moreover, today's digital age makes it easier than ever for teens to launch online businesses or side hustles with relatively low startup costs. Whether it's through social media, e-commerce platforms, or freelance gigs, the barriers to entry have decreased, encouraging young minds to be more innovative.

Benefits Beyond Making Money

While earning income is a motivating factor, starting a business as a teenager brings benefits that go far beyond finances:

- **Time management skills:** Balancing school, social life, and business responsibilities enhances your organizational abilities.
- **Networking:** Building connections with customers, mentors, and other entrepreneurs opens doors to new opportunities.
- **Creativity boost:** Running a business encourages you to think outside the box and find unique solutions.
- **Resilience:** Facing challenges and occasional failures teaches perseverance and adaptability.

Choosing the Right Business Idea

One of the biggest hurdles when you decide to start a business as a teenager is picking the right idea. Your business should align with your interests,

skills, and resources, making the journey enjoyable and sustainable.

Look at Your Skills and Passions

Take some time to reflect on what you're good at and what excites you. Are you artistic? Maybe starting a handmade crafts business or selling digital designs is a good fit. Are you tech-savvy? Consider app development, coding tutorials, or managing social media for local clients.

Identify Market Needs

Successful businesses solve problems or fulfill specific needs. Look around your community or online spaces to spot gaps. For example, if your school lacks affordable snacks, a small healthy snack delivery service could be a hit. If many friends struggle with math, tutoring services might be in demand.

Consider Low-Cost Startup Ideas

As a teenager, budget constraints are real, so focusing on businesses that require minimal investment is smart. Here are some practical options:

- Freelance writing, graphic design, or video editing
- Selling handmade jewelry or art online
- Lawn care or pet sitting services
- Dropshipping or print-on-demand stores
- Social media management for small businesses

Planning Your Teen Business

Once you have an idea, it's time to plan. Even a simple business plan can clarify your vision, goals, and the steps needed to succeed.

Set Clear Goals

Define what you want to achieve with your business. Are you aiming to earn extra pocket money, save for college, or build a brand that can grow over time? Setting measurable goals helps keep you motivated and focused.

Understand Your Target Audience

Who will buy your product or service? Knowing your audience's age, preferences, and habits helps tailor your marketing and improve your offerings.

Create a Budget

Outline your expected costs and potential profits. Factor in materials, marketing expenses, and any tools or subscriptions you might need. Keeping a close eye on your finances teaches important money management skills early on.

Navigating Legal and Financial Basics

Starting a business as a teenager often means dealing with legal and financial considerations, but don't let that intimidate you.

Check Local Laws and Regulations

Depending on where you live, there may be age restrictions or permits required for certain types of businesses. Research your state or country's rules around youth entrepreneurship. Sometimes, parental consent or involvement is necessary to open a business bank account or register a company.

Open a Separate Bank Account

Keeping your business finances separate from personal money helps with tracking income and expenses. Some banks offer teen accounts or joint accounts with parents, which can be a helpful start.

Consider Taxes and Record-Keeping

Even small businesses may need to report income to tax authorities. Maintaining accurate records of sales, expenses, and receipts will make this process smoother. It's also a good habit that benefits any future business ventures.

Marketing Your Teenage Business

Getting the word out is crucial when you start a business as a teenager. Today's technology offers plenty of creative and cost-effective ways to promote your brand.

Leverage Social Media

Platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and Facebook are ideal for reaching potential customers, especially your peers. Share engaging content, behind-the-scenes glimpses, and customer testimonials to build trust and interest.

Network Locally

Don't underestimate the power of your immediate community. Flyers, local events, and word-of-mouth can bring in customers who appreciate supporting young entrepreneurs.

Collaborate and Partner

Partnering with other teen entrepreneurs or local businesses can expand your reach. For example, if you sell handmade soaps, collaborating with a local boutique to stock your products can be mutually beneficial.

Balancing Business and School Life

One of the biggest challenges when you start a business as a teenager is juggling your entrepreneurial efforts with school responsibilities.

Prioritize Your Time

Create a schedule that blocks out time for schoolwork, business tasks, and relaxation. Use tools like calendars or apps to stay organized and avoid burnout.

Set Realistic Expectations

Remember, your education is important and should come first. It's okay if

your business grows slowly or takes a backseat during exam periods.

Seek Support When Needed

Don't hesitate to ask for help from parents, teachers, or mentors. They can offer guidance, resources, or even hands-on assistance when your workload feels overwhelming.

Learning and Growing Through the Experience

Starting a business as a teenager isn't just about making money—it's a journey filled with valuable lessons. You'll learn how to communicate with customers, handle setbacks, and adapt your strategies. Each success and failure adds to your experience and shapes your entrepreneurial mindset.

Many teen entrepreneurs find that their early ventures ignite a lifelong passion for business and innovation. Even if the first business doesn't become a huge success, the skills and confidence gained are priceless.

Embarking on the path to start a business as a teenager can be both thrilling and challenging. With the right mindset, a solid plan, and the willingness to learn, your teenage years can be the perfect time to lay the foundation for your future. So, take that first step, embrace the journey, and watch as your ideas come to life.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the best business ideas for teenagers to start?

Some of the best business ideas for teenagers include tutoring, social media management, handmade crafts, lawn care services, and selling custom merchandise online.

How can a teenager fund their startup business?

Teenagers can fund their startup by using personal savings, seeking support from family and friends, applying for youth entrepreneur grants, or starting with a low-cost business model that requires minimal investment.

What legal considerations should teenagers keep in mind when starting a business?

Teenagers should check local laws regarding business registration, permits, and age restrictions. They may need parental consent to sign contracts or open business bank accounts and should consider the appropriate business structure like sole proprietorship or LLC.

How can teenagers balance school and running a business?

Effective time management is key. Teenagers should create a schedule that prioritizes schoolwork while dedicating specific hours to their business, set realistic goals, and possibly involve family or friends to help manage tasks.

Is it important for teenagers to have a business mentor?

Yes, having a mentor can provide valuable guidance, advice, and support. Mentors can help teenagers navigate challenges, connect them with resources, and improve their entrepreneurial skills.

What skills can teenagers develop by starting their own business?

Teenagers can develop skills such as financial management, marketing, communication, problem-solving, time management, and customer service, all of which are valuable for future career opportunities.

How can teenagers market their business effectively on a budget?

Teenagers can use social media platforms, create engaging content, leverage word-of-mouth marketing, participate in local events, and collaborate with other young entrepreneurs to market their business without spending much money.

Additional Resources

Start a Business as a Teenager: Navigating Early Entrepreneurship with Confidence

Start a business as a teenager has become an increasingly popular pursuit in recent years, fueled by technological advancements, social media platforms, and a growing culture that encourages youthful innovation. While teenage entrepreneurship is not without its challenges, it offers a unique

opportunity for young individuals to develop critical skills, gain financial independence, and lay the groundwork for future career success. This article explores the multifaceted aspects of embarking on a business venture during adolescence, providing an analytical perspective on the benefits, obstacles, and practical considerations essential for young entrepreneurs.

The Rising Trend of Teenage Entrepreneurship

The idea of starting a business as a teenager is no longer an outlier; rather, it reflects a broader societal shift toward early career experimentation and self-starting initiatives. According to a 2022 report by Junior Achievement USA, nearly 40% of teenagers express a strong desire to start their own business before turning 20. This trend aligns with an internet-savvy generation that accesses global markets and resources with unprecedented ease.

The digital age offers teens a comparatively low barrier to entry for launching a business. Online platforms such as Etsy, Shopify, and TikTok enable teenagers to market products and services without the need for large capital investments. Moreover, educational programs and online courses focused on entrepreneurship provide foundational knowledge that was previously inaccessible to younger demographics.

Advantages of Starting a Business as a Teenager

Early Skill Development

One of the most significant advantages of teenage entrepreneurship lies in the development of transferable skills. Managing a business cultivates financial literacy, marketing savvy, negotiation abilities, and time management. These competencies extend beyond the realm of business and are invaluable in academic and professional settings.

Financial Independence and Responsibility

Starting a business can also promote financial independence. Teen entrepreneurs learn firsthand the value of money, budgeting, and reinvestment. While many teenagers rely on allowances or part-time jobs, running a business can generate more substantial income streams and foster a sense of ownership over one's financial future.

Building a Professional Network Early

Engaging with customers, mentors, suppliers, and even competitors helps young entrepreneurs establish early professional networks. These connections can open doors to internships, scholarships, and future partnerships, providing a competitive advantage as teenagers transition into adulthood.

Challenges and Considerations for Teenage Entrepreneurs

Legal and Regulatory Barriers

Despite the enthusiasm, starting a business as a teenager is often complicated by legal constraints. Minors typically cannot enter into binding contracts without parental consent, and obtaining permits or licenses may require additional oversight. These legal hurdles necessitate careful planning and often the involvement of guardians or legal advisors.

Balancing Education and Business Responsibilities

Another significant challenge is the balance between school commitments and business operations. Time management becomes critical, as teenagers must ensure their academic performance does not suffer while dedicating sufficient effort to their enterprises. Poor balance can lead to burnout or diminished outcomes in both areas.

Limited Access to Capital

Financing a startup is a common obstacle for teen entrepreneurs, who may lack credit history or collateral to secure loans. While crowdfunding and family support are viable alternatives, limited access to capital may restrict the scale and scope of business ideas.

Popular Business Ideas for Teenagers

For teenagers interested in starting a business, several models have proven particularly accessible and scalable. The choice depends on personal interests, skills, and available resources.

- **Online Retail:** Selling handmade crafts, vintage clothing, or digital products through platforms like Etsy or Depop.
- **Content Creation:** Monetizing social media channels or blogs through advertising, sponsorships, or affiliate marketing.
- **Tutoring and Educational Services:** Offering academic support in subjects of expertise to peers or younger students.
- **Tech-Based Services:** Developing apps, websites, or providing IT support for local businesses.
- **Event Planning or Personal Services:** Organizing community events or providing services such as pet sitting, lawn care, or photography.

Each of these options allows for incremental growth and can be tailored to fit a teenager's schedule and skill set.

Strategies to Successfully Launch and Grow a Teenage Business

Market Research and Validation

Before fully committing resources, young entrepreneurs should conduct thorough market research. Understanding target audience needs, competition, and pricing strategies can inform business decisions and reduce the risk of failure.

Leveraging Technology and Social Media

Effective use of digital tools is crucial. Social media platforms serve as powerful marketing channels that can amplify reach without significant expenditure. Learning to create engaging content and interact with customers online is a valuable aspect of running a modern business.

Seeking Mentorship and Support

Guidance from experienced entrepreneurs, educators, or family members can provide critical insight and emotional support. Mentorship programs specifically designed for youth entrepreneurship can be found through local business associations or nonprofit organizations.

Financial Management and Record-Keeping

Maintaining detailed financial records is essential for tracking profitability and preparing for tax obligations. Utilizing simple accounting software or spreadsheets can help teenagers stay organized and responsible.

The Broader Impact of Teenage Entrepreneurship

Fostering entrepreneurship at a young age contributes positively to economic and social development. Teen businesses often address niche markets or community needs, encouraging innovation and diversity within the marketplace. Additionally, young entrepreneurs tend to exhibit increased confidence, resilience, and problem-solving capabilities, traits that benefit society as a whole.

Educational institutions are increasingly recognizing the value of incorporating entrepreneurial training into curricula, further legitimizing and supporting teenage business initiatives. This integration may pave the way for more structured pathways that assist young people in transforming ideas into viable ventures.

While the journey of starting a business as a teenager is complex and demanding, it remains a compelling option for those eager to challenge themselves and build a foundation for future success. With the right mix of creativity, discipline, and support, teenage entrepreneurs can navigate the hurdles and capitalize on the unique opportunities their age presents.

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This book, *How To Start a Business As A Teen: A Beginners Step-by-Step Guide for Starting Your Own Business as a Teenager*, provides you with a simple guide to starting up a successful teen business. With this book, you will also get some business ideas that are suitable for teens and students, as well as letting you know how to get your business off the ground. From exploring the types of business you can start to the legalities of setting up your business and the realities of your day-to-day operations, this book, without a doubt, is a must-have for any teen who wishes to be self-dependent! Below are what you will learn from this book: The characteristics of a successful teen entrepreneur How to create your business plan Executive summary The six most important sections of an executive summary Discovering Your Purpose and Passion for What You Do How to register your business for legality How you can obtain your business legal permit and licenses The laws and regulations in business How to finance your business Various taxes to expect for your business Various businesses you can start as a teen This book is written in such a way that both teenagers and beginners can benefit from it. Though the book primarily speaks to teenagers, you will find it beneficial as a beginner who wants to delve into the world of entrepreneurship. Without a doubt, this book is one of the best entrepreneurship books for beginners!

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idea? What can you achieve by starting a business? Who Are You? Personality types Selling to various personalities What is the business best suited to your personality? Your abilities and skills Qualities required for becoming an entrepreneur What is a mentor? Finding your niche You'll be making money... What will you do with it? What kind of expectations should you have? Managing your parents Is everyone going to like you? Will you be taken seriously? How will you test your business idea? Legal Stuff... Protecting yourself and your business Agreements and contracts Copyrights, trademarks, service marks and patents What is bookkeeping? Financial statements How much will starting and operating your business cost? How do you know if you're making money? Where do you get the money to start? What happens when you do a lot of business and your company grows? What do you do if you need financing? Plan of Action and Business Plan How much money are you going to make? How to Sell Your Products Letting potential customers know that you exist Who are your customers? The competition Marketing strategies How do you get to know your customers? Customer information gathering plan The marketing plan Networking and word of mouth Getting your first customer Your Corporate Image Professionalism, reliability and credibility, professional behavior and business etiquette Organizing your work space Managing Your Time Establishing priorities Motivation and Support Is being in business always easy? Your well-being Getting Recognized Beware of scams and bullies... Growth of the Business Growing pains: the most common mistakes to avoid The Internet - A Tool for Your Business Get Lucky! What is luck, exactly? Where Will You Go from Here? And more!

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a gift, a talent, a skill, or even a hobby that can be used as a springboard to initiate the business-building process. By applying the digital marketing strategies taught in the course, they will be well on their way to becoming young successful entrepreneurs. The course will first share the basics of what it is to be an entrepreneur and then open the floodgates, filling minds with wonderful ideas used to create a business that is best suited for each teen. Use this time to grow. Use this program as an opportunity to become a wise and impressive savant. There are no secrets or shortcuts to making money in life. Success falls directly on you and your efforts. Start your journey here and let's get your business going today. The course is formatted to be easily followed, page by page, and step by step with fun and thought-provoking activities.

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start earning money online and offline with ease, with little effort and time. From blogging to affiliate marketing, from product sales to sponsored content, this book will show you the way to financial freedom. Get your copy now and start your journey to becoming a millionaire!

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Ameé Quiriconi, 2021-04-13 Create Your Own Women Owned Business Startup "...a guide for smart, ambitious women who want to make their mark on the world...a practical step-by-step journey to shifting your mindset and calling on your own resilience and resourcefulness."?Rachel Beider, bestselling author of *Massage MBA: Run Your Practice, Love Your Life* and globally recognized small business expert *The Fearless Woman's Guide to Starting a Business* is a book for freedom-seeking female entrepreneurs and solopreneurs who want to know how to connect with their true passions, skills, and desires. It's a book for startup business women who get honest with themselves about their reasons for wanting to start a business. Learn what type of new business you want to lead. Through a combination of data, neuroscience, true stories, humor, and the type of frankness that you would expect from your best girlfriend, this book helps you determine the real reasons and motivations behind starting a business —and then dares you to dream big about what being the head of a woman-owned business can do for you. Find real tools for real women in business. When creating a start-up, it can be difficult to stay the course —to choose yourself and stay motivated on the hardest days. Ameé Quiriconi, author and entrepreneur behind the *One Broken Mom* podcast, has your back. In *The Fearless Woman's Guide to Starting a Business*, learn about: The main reasons business owners report why they closed their businesses —and how you can avoid failure Specific techniques and insights needed for building a startup and brand that is authentic to who you are How to turn your side hustle or hobby into a money-making endeavor Strategies for navigating the sometimes-hostile world business women live and work in every day Readers of business books and entrepreneurship books for women like *Girl on Fire* by Cara Alwill Leyba, *Fear is my Homeboy*, *Believe It*, or *Boss Up!* will love *The Fearless Woman's Guide to Starting a Business*.

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Memoirs, Gift Books, Or Success Stories for Clients Anne Hart, 2005-12 Learn what questions to ask and how to interview people for the significant moments in their life stories, and then write, publish, and bind by hand exquisitely-crafted personal gift books, memoirs, or business success stories. Words in memoirs or life success story gift books have a life of their own. The purpose of a hand-made, finely bound memoirs or business success-story gift book is to show how two or more people bring out the best in one another. You'd be surprised how many people are satisfied to pay up to \$10,000 (or more depending upon the publisher) to have only one copy of a hand-bound hardcover book published about their event or life story. What does it take to create and publish a memoirs gift book commemorating a Bar Mitzvah, confirmation, wedding, or true experience? What quality of personal book do you want to make from scratch-writing, printing, and binding? As far as printing and binding, you can make one finished book at a cost to you of only \$1.50-\$4.50. What you charge a client depends on what it costs you. If you create and publish a custom gift book, you'd publish only one copy of a hand bound, hard-cover book. The tome would contain anywhere from 60 to 100 photos. Text material based on phone or live interviews running at least two hours for one person (or more if needed and about two hours spent per each interview) would be about 80 to 120 published pages-slightly more, but only if necessary. Look at yourself as a designer, writer, interviewer, and book binder. Learn how to make your own pop-up books for all ages.

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up your own business can be an exciting yet daunting venture. The case studies, interviews, debates and articles in this ebook will provide valuable insight for the aspiring entrepreneur. They address

areas such as marketing and finance, legal issues, time management and the effective use of social media.

start a business as a teenager: How to Start a Business As a Teenager Quinn Chapman, 2023-11-21

start a business as a teenager: *Teen CEO* Mia Dawson, 2025-08-01 Step Into the World Where Teenage Dreams Become Thriving Businesses Imagine turning your best ideas into a real, money-making venture—right now. This guide invites you to embrace your inner entrepreneur and take bold steps toward creating a business that reflects your passions and talents. It's designed especially for teens ready to transform inspiration into action and income. From brainstorming creative ideas to mastering marketing and managing finances, every chapter equips you with practical tools and insider tips. Learn how to identify your target audience, craft a memorable brand, and plan your startup strategically. Discover smart goal-setting techniques that keep you on track, and explore hands-on advice for navigating legal essentials, funding options, and building a dynamic team. The journey isn't just about business—it's about balancing school, life, and your ambitions with confidence. Why settle for dreaming when you can build? This book offers a step-by-step roadmap filled with real-world examples, actionable worksheets, and expert guidance tailored to the unique challenges and opportunities teen CEOs face. Whether you're just discovering your entrepreneurial spirit or preparing to launch your first product, you'll find encouragement and clarity at every turn. Your future as a teen business leader starts today—take the leap, refine your skills, and watch your ideas grow into something powerful and profitable. With the right mindset and knowledge, there's no limit to what you can achieve in the world of entrepreneurship.

start a business as a teenager: *Teen Boss* Barrett Williams, ChatGPT, 2024-09-01 ## Teen Boss The Ultimate Guide to AI for Young Entrepreneurs Unlock the secrets of artificial intelligence and revolutionize your entrepreneurial journey with Teen Boss The Ultimate Guide to AI for Young Entrepreneurs. This comprehensive eBook is tailored to aspiring teen business leaders ready to dive into the dynamic and exciting world of AI. Whether you're a tech enthusiast or a budding entrepreneur, this guide will equip you with the knowledge and practical skills needed to thrive. ### What You'll Discover **1. Introduction to AI for Teen Entrepreneurs** Get acquainted with AI and how it's transforming the business landscape. Learn why teens have a unique advantage in AI-based business endeavors. **2. Identifying AI Business Opportunities** Master the art of recognizing market needs, analyzing AI trends, and brainstorming innovative startup ideas that stand out. **3. Developing an AI-Based Product or Service** Delve into the basics of AI technologies like machine learning, natural language processing, and computer vision. Discover real-world applications and inspiring case studies of successful teen-led AI startups. **4. Building Your AI Product** Gain essential programming skills, choose the right AI tools, and develop a minimum viable product (MVP) with ease. **5. Validating Your AI Business Idea** Learn how to conduct effective market research, build early prototypes, and gather valuable feedback to refine your product. **6. Creating a Business Plan** Define your vision, outline key goals and milestones, and get a solid grasp of financial planning and budgeting. **7. Setting Up Your AI Startup** Navigate through legal considerations, build a powerful brand, and discover essential tools and resources for AI startups. **8. Acquiring Funding for Your AI Business** Explore various funding options, craft a compelling pitch, and network with investors and mentors to secure financial backing. **9. Marketing Your AI Product** Implement digital marketing strategies, leverage social media and influencers, and create effective content marketing plans. **10. Scaling Your AI Business** Streamline your operations, leverage data for growth, and build strong partnerships to scale your business successfully. **11. Managing Your AI Business** Enhance your management skills, lead your team effectively, and master time management and productivity hacks. **12. Navigating Challenges** Develop problem-solving techniques, maintain motivation and resilience, and learn from your failures. **13. Ethical Considerations in AI** Understand AI ethics, ensure transparency and fairness, and protect user data and privacy. **14. Staying Updated in the AI Field** Embrace continuous learning, follow industry news, and join AI and tech communities for ongoing growth and

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start a business as a teenager: *Start Small FINISH BIG* Fred De Luca, John P. Hayes, 2012-11-20 At age seventeen Fred DeLuca borrowed \$1,000 from a friend and started SUBWAY(R). Today, with more than 38,000 stores in one hundred countries and annual sales exceeding \$16.6 billion, Fred DeLuca's SUBWAY is a success story with a message... START SMALL FINISH BIG Publishers Weekly Review: DeLuca was only 17 when he started what is now the Subway restaurant chain in 1965; he needed money to attend college and a friend offered to back him with \$1,000 to start a sandwich shop in Bridgeport, Conn. That beginning led DeLuca to an enormously successful career: in addition to being president of the chain, he runs MILE, a nonprofit organization that offers loans to entrepreneurs. According to DeLuca, there are 15 essential principles for anyone starting a small business, some of which, DeLuca confesses, he learned the hard way (he had never made a submarine sandwich before opening day of his first shop). Among these pillars: Believe in Your People; Never Run Out of Money; Keep the Faith; and Profit or Perish. DeLuca uses his own business experience as well as that of other successful entrepreneurs. A e.g., the founders of Kinko's and Little Caesar's. In addition to those of less well-known business people. Written in a conversational style, the advice isn't especially original or creative. However, would-be millionaires who are sitting at their kitchen table wondering if they should take that big step and start a business will find the book both instructive and inspirational. Agent, Bob D'Amico. Library Journal DeLuca, co-founder in 1965 of SUBWAY Restaurants and founder in 1996 of the Micro Investment Lending Enterprise (MILE), a nonprofit organization making microloans to entrepreneurs/microentrepreneurs, has written this humorous, down-to-earth guide to success as a small business owner. Coauthor Hayes is a writer (Computer Architecture and Organization, 1998), public speaker, and business trainer. Each chapter describes one of DeLuca's 15 key lessons and is illustrated with a real-life case study. None of the people in these cases is a household name, but businesses such as Kinkos, Little Caesars, and SUBWAY are. DeLuca doesn't claim that his guides form a master plan for success, but he optimistically believes that anyone can become Bill Gates, Lillian Vernon, or Henry Lay and that his lessons will increase the chances. His book also promotes and supports MILE, and the last chapter and appendix are devoted to information about it and its programs. Recommended for most small business collections. Susan C. Awe, Univ. of New Mexico Lib., Albuquerque

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