

# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 136 It's Never Too Early to Build a Great Work Ethic

Have you got a teenager in the house and they're thinking about getting a part-time job during school? I'm Jerry Roberts and let's talk about ways for them to make money, today, on The Extra Point.

When a teenager wants to make spending money they have a choice. They can hit their parents up for it, or they can do that "E" thing, earn the money. Let's follow that path.

Federal law allows the child to get a job at age 14. This is usually minimum wage work and just a few hours a week to start, but by proving their good work ethic, they can do okay.

That's way number one and now way number two. Would you be surprised to know that if the parents have a business, the child doesn't have to wait until 14 to start working? If you've got a business, even part-time, ask your tax advisor about the benefits of hiring your child to work in your company.

If you do, have standards for whatever work you set up for them. Make these standards fit good business practices. Little Johnny can't sit in the corner on his iPad, doing nothing, while you pay him minimum wage because what you're really trying to do is deduct his weekly allowance from your taxes.

Assign real work to accomplish and praise your child for doing it well. When they need correction, do that like you would for any other employee. You'll be establishing good quality work habits at a very early age, which will be a huge advantage in the years to come.

The final option is the most exciting but, in all honesty, it's not something every child will want to do; nor the path some parents will want their kid to take. That said, for some, it will be a launching pad for lifetime success. Your child will start a business. Now, let's think

a little. If you have your kid bush-cut the yard and they do a pretty good job, how much of a stretch would it be for him or her to knock on doors in your neighborhood, seeing if anybody else needs their yard done?

Maybe it won't be bush-cutting. A lot of people want things straightened up or cleaned, and will gladly pay someone to do that.

I knew of a kid once who was great at painting rooms. One day a neighbor was visiting his mother and saw him painting a bedroom. She asked him if he'd be willing to paint a couple of rooms for her when he finished. He did so and was so good at it, he got referred from one person to the next and to the next. He made enough in the following six years to put himself through college.

Maybe your child is brilliant at one particular subject in school. How many kids are taking that subject and aren't as good? Could your child tutor others?

There are endless ideas for starting a spare time business that could earn a lot more than the minimum wage they'd get in an entry level job. If your kid is a hustler, then it's at least worth thinking about.

So whether it's working for someone else, or for your business, or starting their own, it's never too early to get going on building a great work ethic in your children.

That's The Extra Point. Get out there and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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