



5 Biggest Mistakes Parents Make in Helping Their Teen Pick a Career (And How to Fix Them!)

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Read this if:

- ✓ You want to help your teen make a smart career decisions (without wasting time or money).
- ✓ You're not sure if college, trade school, business, etc. is the best path for them.
- ✓ You want to avoid the common mistakes parents make when guiding their kids' futures.


Mistake #1: Pushing College as the Only Option

The Problem:

- We often assume **college is the only path to success** when other great options exist.
- Some careers **don't require a college degree** (that list is growing!).
- In college, teens **pick random majors** just because it's expected.

How to Fix It:

- List **3 careers** your teen is interested in.
- Research **whether a college degree is needed** for those careers.
- Look into **trade schools, certifications, or apprenticeships** as alternatives.

 **Quick Tip:** Many high-paying jobs don't require a degree—Google salaries for **cybersecurity, software engineering, plumbing, or digital marketing!** Although you can get degrees in some of these fields – usually not needed.


Mistake #2: Choosing a Career Based on Money Alone

The Problem:

- Picking a career **just for the paycheck** often leads to **burnout and job-hopping**.
- Parents pressure kids into **“safe” careers** instead of ones that fit their natural strengths.

How to Fix It:

- Ask your teen: **“What do you love doing, even if you don't get paid for it?”**
- List **3 activities** they enjoy that could turn into a career.
- Research **real-life examples** of people making money in those fields.

 **Quick Tip:** Many “fun” careers (like video editing, coding, and business) can be **more profitable than traditional jobs**.


Mistake #3: Expecting Schools to Teach Career Readiness

The Problem:

- Schools **teach subjects but not real-world skills**.
- **Resumes, interviews, networking, and finances** are NOT covered in school (and if they are usually poorly covered!).
- Many students **graduate with zero work experience**.

How to Fix It:

- Help your teen **connect with professionals** in careers they’re curious about.
- Set up a **job shadowing experience** (or even just a coffee chat with a pro).
- Encourage **part-time work, internships, or freelancing**.

 **Quick Tip:** A teen who has **talked to 5 professionals** in different fields will have more career clarity than a college graduate who has never worked a job or networked with professionals.

Mistake #4: Assuming Your Teen Will "Just Figure It Out"

The Problem:

- Many teens graduate **with no plan** and waste **years drifting**.
- They feel **overwhelmed with too many choices** and shut down.

How to Fix It:

- Schedule a **career conversation** with your teen this week.
- Ask them: **“If you had to start earning money today, how would you do it?”**
- Help them **test career ideas with real-world experience** (not just guess).

 **Quick Tip:** Exposure leads to clarity! **Encourage small experiments** like volunteering, side gigs, or part-time jobs in different fields.


Mistake #5: Ignoring Your Own Career Growth

The Problem:

- Parents focus so much on their teen's future that they **neglect their own career**.
- Many homeschool moms **want to return to work but don't know how**.
- Many dads **feel stuck in jobs they hate but feel trapped**.

How to Fix It:

- Write down **1 career goal for yourself this year**.
- If you feel stuck, brainstorm **3 small career moves** (learning a skill, networking, or exploring a business).
- Set an example—**your teen watches how YOU handle career growth**.


 **Quick Tip:** The best way to guide your teen is **to model career success yourself**. If you feel stuck, it's never too late to pivot!

Need Help Creating a Plan for Your Teen (or Yourself)?

Most parents and teens struggle with **career clarity** because they don't have a plan.

That's why I offer a **Parent & Teen Career Strategy Call** where we:

- Map out career options for your teen** (college, trade, or business).
- Help YOU or your spouse rethink career choices** (if you're feeling stuck).
- Create a real plan for your family's financial future**.

 **Get a strategy session for just \$97! (Limited seats available at this price!)**

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