

Kids & the business

Starting a business with a couple of little ones at your heels is no mean feat and more often than not you'll find yourself working well into the night. However, it is possible to be an at home business-owner and parent.

When starting a business whilst balancing the needs of the family, it is important to find an equilibrium you are happy with and that complements your own personal situation and lifestyle. Yet, unfortunately when it comes to parenting, and successfully satisfying the needs of the family, there is no one size fits all solution. There are however things you can take into account.

Routine

The best thing you can do is to immediately establish a routine that factors in your business needs (and your cash flow and bottom line), with your duties as parent and partner. For some people the idea of a routine means monotony and repetition, yet when starting a business this is exactly what the 'doctor ordered'. Routine is essential when it comes to helping children understand what to expect from their day, and how their day fits into yours. To effectively start a business it is important your children are settled. It's tough enough starting a business let alone dealing with the demands of an unmanageable child.

Support

Ensure you have the support of your partner when starting up a business. Partners make great sounding boards when the going gets tough and they can provide support in managing the commitments to the family.



Sonia Williams

Sonia Williams started her career as a CPA. She has since worked in all areas of business, including public, private sectors, manufacturing and government and has worked for both small and large prestigious accounting firms. Sonia also operated her own photography business for five years. In 2006 she penned the book *Show Mummy the Money*, designed to illustrate to at-home mums generate and implement their own ideas for a home-based business. Visit www.showmummythemoney.com.au

Allocate a proportion of the chores to your partner: meals, shopping or even simple task such as paying the bills.

Tips to survive

If you find circumstances are such that you have to work whilst managing the kids, here are a few tricks to help you to survive:

- If you need to work on the computer, move the computer to a room where the kids can play and you can work, simultaneously.
- Make sure the kids have lots of toys and interesting things to do, but you need to be certain and quite confident that you can turn away for two-to-five minutes without fear of your child placing the toys in some unwanted area.
- Whilst I am not an advocate of allowing children to watch copious amounts of television, I do believe everything in moderation dependant on what is being shown. Educational DVDs can keep the kids entertained for at least 45 minutes; long enough for you to make a few important business calls.
- You can guarantee the minute you sit down, your children's demands increase. So before you sit down to work, make sure you have all bases covered, including food, drink and entertainment.
- If you need to make phone calls with the kids around, you may find you are competing for airtime. Ways to effectively deal with this distraction include:



- 1 Consider making important calls in the backyard equipped with suitable distractions so you can make calls whilst the kids happily play.
 - 2 Give your child a pretend phone and let them talk when you are talking – pretend you are calling them.
 - 3 Give your child a special activity to do whilst you make your calls.
- When the art of balancing business with family is getting too much, you need to have the courage to say 'time for a break'. It is okay to feel stressed when starting a business, and invariably best laid plans can go astray.
- A successful businessperson accepts when it is time to take a break, so if you are starting to feel pressure, take a breather.
- Starting a business will absorb a reasonable amount of your 'free' time, leaving little time for socialising. If you take the time to let your family and friends

know you are starting a business, they will be aware of your need to be 'missing in action' and will more than likely forgive you for the lack of time you actually spend with them. They may even offer support or help with starting the business and or managing the familys needs.

- Time management is of the essence. To have the time to work on starting a business you need to create the time. Do a weekly review of the activities you undertake and evaluate the areas in which you could eliminate time wasting activities. How many times do you do your grocery shopping and could this be done on line? Other time savers include preparing and freezing meals and doing the housework with the kids.

If you do what is in the best interests for you and your child, you will be able to manage the task of raising your children, with the task of growing your business. No one understands your child's needs better than yourself, so with commitment, determination and passion you too can have the best of both worlds. ☺

Looking for a Way to Make Millions this Year?

IT'S IN THE BRIEFCASE.

Bob Proctor from the movie, *The Secret*

There is a proven Science in this briefcase. This science originated thousands of years ago. It is a Secret that is so very powerful...so infallibly consistent...that it has single-handedly created Total Financial Freedom for hundreds of thousands of people...people just like you.

If you've seen the movie, you might have wondered HOW these millionaires created triumphant wealth from absolutely nothing. We weren't any smarter or more well positioned than you. We've simply shared one common trait – we learned **the Secret behind The Secret.**

Over the ages, many who uncovered this Secret wanted to keep it to themselves. But everyone deserves to know this freeing truth. I began exposing this Secret 40 years ago. Then, a group of individuals decided to infiltrate every corner of the world with this message and created a movie that has become an extraordinary blockbuster hit – it's called **The Secret.**

It's time to put your life on track to tremendous abundance...it's time you learned **the Secret behind The Secret.**

It's here for you in the briefcase. Grab it, hold it and never let it go.

There is a valuable bonus waiting for you at www.thesecretsgr.com /davidsschirmer

Make 2007 your year of certain wealth. Go to www.thesecretsgr.com/davidsschirmer. Your briefcase is waiting for you.