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Tips for Navigating Entrepreneurship as a Parent with a Disability

By: Ed Carter

Entrepreneurship can be a great path for parents with disabilities. When you run your own business from home, you can be around to care for your children while ensuring access to all the tools, technologies, and resources you need to do your best work. Pursuing entrepreneurship also means avoiding stigmas and stereotypes that can create barriers in the traditional workforce. In this article, [Ed Carter of AbleFutures](#) shares some tips to help you take your business idea from dream to reality!

Set Up an Informative Website

A website is the most essential element of any online business. Take the time to set up an attractive and modern website that will provide visitors with important information about your

company. According to Clutch.io, consumers value websites with [trendy designs and relevant content](#). By providing your visitors with relevant information in an engaging format, like an infographic, you can convey information easily and keep people on your website longer. With the help of online graphic design tools, [creating your own infographic](#) is easy. Just choose a free template and customize it so it fits the overall design of your website.

Importantly, make sure your website is [accessible to others with disabilities](#). Many website-building platforms make it easy to include accessible design features, so be sure to enable these!

Form an LLC to Protect Your Family

When you register your business, you'll need to pick a business structure. [Consider forming an LLC](#) instead of sticking with the default sole proprietorship. An LLC will protect you and your family's assets, like your home, from business-related liabilities. Plus, LLCs are inexpensive and relatively easy to set up. If you're on a tight budget, you don't even have to hire a lawyer to help with the formation process. Online formation services allow any entrepreneur to form an LLC regardless of experience. Just be sure to check your state's LLC rules first!

Go Back to School to Advance Your Skills

If you're new to entrepreneurship, going back to school [for a business education](#) wouldn't hurt. Online programs offer the ability to learn at your own pace and on your own schedule, which can be especially beneficial for parents who need to balance work and family responsibilities. At the same time, the online format allows for easy accessibility and accommodations, such as audio descriptions, closed captioning, and other assistive technologies.

Take Advantage of Available Resources

Numerous resources can help you succeed in launching your business. For example, state and federal government agencies provide grants to entrepreneurs with disabilities. You can also [find support through non-profit organizations](#). The Small Business Administration (SBA) offers resources, counseling services, and training programs. [Disability-Owned Business Enterprises \(DOBE\)](#) certification offers networking opportunities and procurement assistance. Finally, online communities and forums can connect you with peers, mentors, and resources to help you grow your business!

Find a Business Mentor

As Bplans explains, it's a good idea to find a mentor who can [offer guidance and support](#) as you navigate entrepreneurship. A mentor will provide you with access to industry knowledge and expertise, networking opportunities, and constructive feedback that can help you improve your skills. And if you can find a mentor with a disability, they can also offer guidance regarding operating a business with a disability and help increase your confidence. Reach out to organizations that support entrepreneurs with disabilities to find potential mentors. You can even connect with mentors through social media!

Starting a business as a parent with a disability can be challenging, especially if you have young kids who require your constant care and attention. But entrepreneurship is definitely achievable with the right support! Take advantage of resources designated for entrepreneurs with disabilities, consider going back to school to earn an online business degree, and work with a mentor who understands the unique challenges you'll face as you build a business of your own.

As an entrepreneur with a disability, make sure you know your rights! [Disability Rights of West Virginia \(DRWV\)](#) offers a variety of free services to support those with disabilities, from direct advocacy services to information and referral services. Contact us today to learn more! Call 1-800-950-5250