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# Children & Young People Now

For everyone working with children, young people and families

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## My Life

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I've always wanted to make money. Watching *The Apprentice* and seeing a lot of young people making big business moves, I thought, you don't necessarily need an educational background, because good services and products speak for themselves. I never thought about the skills needed to do it, to practically apply an idea and to make it real.

The root for major business success is solving a problem, so when the charity MyBnk came to my college with a real challenge, I saw the chance to solve that problem.

I took the lead in an enterprise education programme called Mind Your Own Business, which is helping 200 disadvantaged young people in London's poorest boroughs. My team of six went from the drawing board to Romford Road Market in just two weeks using an interest-free loan of £40 to make sweets, candles and bath products. We learnt how to sell and cost, create business plans, and gained communication, budgeting and teamwork skills. Our team made £95, a 237.5 per cent profit.

These experiences were not boring. At school, everything is written theory. This was action - talking, moving about, understanding the customer and marketing, while trying to get good deals for our products.

The most rewarding part was learning how to lead a team; working with them to get the best out of the group. It's been an eye-opener to the real world of business.

