

Buttons Buttons Buttons!

By Hannacy Gurbisz



My name is Hannacy and I'm 10 years old. I just participated in a program called TREP\$ at my middle school where kids learn what it takes to start their own businesses. The workshops were fun and really helped us know what we needed to do, but the best part was at the end of the program, we got to set up our businesses at a big marketplace that was open to everybody in our town!

They said we should choose a business idea that fits our personalities, so that it stays interesting to us. For my business, I wanted to make more than one product to sell, and do things that were creative. My mom is a huge button collector and I had a huge choice to select from. So a lot of my items included using buttons. I wanted to make things that were unique and would make a private space fun, so I named my business, "Creative Spaces".

It was important to me that my products were really different, that you wouldn't see them anywhere else. I made bookmarks with buttons, button flowers, scrapbooks - of course with buttons, and to get away from all those buttons I decided to make grass heads, which my cat really loved. Oh I almost forgot, I made funny pencil erasers too.

Since I love crafting, making my own products to sell was really fun. One of my favorite things was planting the seeds for my grass heads. I painted flowerpots green and added these big eyes. It only took 4 days for the grass to sprout and then they really went wild. They are so funny looking people just love them!

There were a few things I was nervous about. I wanted to make sure I gave back correct change to my customers. I just tried to take my time, and by the end of the night I was pretty good at it. The other thing was that I am a little on the shy side. I was surprised how I didn't feel shy at all when adults came up and asked me questions about my products. I think I got better at talking to adults and at making change!

Now that the marketplace is over, I have decided to keep my business. I would like to continue selling some of my products to friends, family and neighbors and it would be fun just to make my products for gifts too.

I think being an entrepreneur is a great experience for kids. During the market many people commented that I was really creative and had unique, different products. They loved my crazy grass heads and I sold out of them before the market was over. That felt great! I think this helped people see that I can be very creative and responsible. The marketplace a really good experience and it was lots of fun counting my money! □