**We’re Not Raising Children; We’re Raising Grown Ups**

By Carol Topp

HomeschoolCPA.com and MicroBusinessForTeens.com

**Stunting our adults-to-be**

“I speak to singles who are so concerned with "guarding each other’s heart" that they're not talking to one another.”- Joshua Harris, author of *I Kissed Dating Goodbye* [http://www.covlife.org](http://www.covlife.org/) “Courtship Shmourtship” sermon

Signs you are micro-managing your teen by Joanne Calderwood, author of *The Self-Propelled Advantage*

* You help your teen without being asked
* You run your teens daily schedule of activities
* You step in before your teen makes a mistake

“Western parents are extremely anxious about their children’s self-esteem. True Self-esteem has to be earned. Tiger moms assume strength, not fragility” – Amy Chua, author of *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*

“Promise me you'll always remember: you're braver than you believe and stronger than you seem and smarter than you think.” - Christopher Robin to Pooh

“Give them wings not strings. We tie our kids down when we overly enable or control them…they are inhibited rather than equipped. When we fail to relinquish control, (our children) become weak in areas where they need to be strong because we exercised our own muscles in those situations and not theirs.” -Dennis Trittin, author of *Parenting for the Launch*

* If they sleep in, don’t nag and yell
* If they spend all their money, don’t bail them out
* If they have a conflict, don’t jump in and try to fix it

Incrementally release control…increasingly hand over the reins. Require them to do things like:

* Earn their own income/Manage their money
* Do their own laundry
* Fix some meals
* Clean the house before and after friends visit
* Make their own appointments
* Keep their own schedule and calendar
* Do (or pay) for car maintenance

**Areas of growth**

**Academic:** Lee Binz, TheHomeScholar.com, author of *Setting the Records Straight*.

**Spiritual:** Phil Vischer podcast at PhilVischer.com

**Relationships:** “A college roommate is preparation for marriage.”- Skip Trudeau, Dean of Students, Taylor University

**Career Exploration:** SchoolhouseTeachers.com 8-week class.

Google “Career Exploration Carol Topp” for article “Pursuing Their Dreams”

Try job shadowing.

**Life Skills:** laundry, cooking, cleaning, car maintenance.

*Children Who Do Too Little* by Patricia Sprinkle.

**Financial**

### Anything by Dave Ramsey including his podcast, YouTube videos and live seminars.

### *Wall Street Journal Guide to Starting Your Financial Life* by Karen Blumenthal

*Micro Business for Teens* by Carol Topp. Books, ebooks, YouTube videos, podcast

Coming soon: Micro Business for Teens *Fast Track* online learning portal.

Taxes: TeensAndTaxes.com ebook

“My goal is to raise taxpayers!” - Dave Topp, Carol’s husband

**Find Carol Topp at**

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