

SIDE QUEST HQ

25 BUSINESS IDEAS TEENS CAN START FOR UNDER \$100

A practical, parent-aware field guide. The \$5K goal is a challenge, not a guaranteed income result.

01. NEIGHBORHOOD DOG WALKING | Startup: \$0-\$25

What they do: Walk a dog on a set route, refresh water, and send a quick update after each visit.

Who might hire them: Busy neighbors, families with new puppies, and people working long shifts.

Simple first step: Ask three families you already know if a short weekly walk would help.

Safety note: A parent should approve routes, dogs, schedules, and every client relationship.

02. PET-SITTING DROP-INS | Startup: \$0-\$20

What they do: Feed pets, refresh water, play with them, and follow a simple care checklist while owners travel.

Who might hire them: Families taking weekend trips or vacations.

Simple first step: Create a one-page pet-care checklist and offer a trial visit for a familiar family.

Safety note: Use parent-approved homes, never handle unknown animals alone, and keep emergency contacts handy.

03. YARD CLEANUP | Startup: \$10-\$45

What they do: Rake leaves, pull weeds, sweep patios, gather branches, and bag light yard waste.

Who might hire them: Neighbors who need seasonal help or a tidy yard before guests arrive.

Simple first step: Choose one simple task and make a before-and-after checklist.

Safety note: A parent should approve equipment; skip ladders, power tools, and unsafe weather.

04. CAR INTERIOR REFRESH | Startup: \$20-\$65

What they do: Vacuum mats, wipe approved surfaces, clean windows, and organize loose items with the owner's permission.

Who might hire them: Busy parents, commuters, and families preparing for a trip.

Simple first step: Practice on a family car and take clear before-and-after photos.

Safety note: Work in a visible driveway with adult-approved products; never drive a client's car.

05. TRASH-BIN CLEANING | Startup: \$20-\$70

What they do: Rinse and deodorize outdoor bins using a brush, hose, and customer-approved cleaner.

Who might hire them: Households that want cleaner bins after pickup day.

Simple first step: Test your process on your household bins and time the work.

Safety note: Wear gloves and eye protection; a parent should approve chemicals and water access.

06. BABYSITTING HELPER | Startup: \$0-\$20

What they do: Play games, read, prepare simple snacks, and help keep younger kids engaged while a parent is nearby.

Who might hire them: Friends, relatives, and neighbors who need an extra pair of hands.

Simple first step: Offer a two-hour mother's-helper session to a trusted family.

Safety note: Use parent-approved families and settings; teens should not take on responsibilities beyond their training.

07. MOTHER'S HELPER | Startup: \$0-\$15

What they do: Entertain children, fold simple laundry, reset play areas, or prep activity

supplies while a parent is home.

Who might hire them: Parents working from home or caring for multiple children.

Simple first step: List three age-appropriate tasks you can reliably do.

Safety note: The hiring parent stays present; clarify boundaries and emergency information first.

08. BASIC MENDING AND ALTERATIONS | Startup: \$15-\$60

What they do: Sew buttons, hem simple items, repair small tears, or organize a clothing repair pile.

Who might hire them: Families with uniforms, school clothes, or minor repairs waiting to be done.

Simple first step: Complete three practice repairs on your own clothes and photograph the results.

Safety note: Use needles and irons only with household guidance; avoid formalwear or expensive items until skilled.

09. CLOSET RESET | Startup: \$0-\$30

What they do: Sort clothing by category, make donation piles, fold items, and create a simple keep/store plan.

Who might hire them: Busy families, students, and adults preparing for a move or new season.

Simple first step: Organize one family closet and write down the steps you followed.

Safety note: Only work in client-approved areas and protect privacy around personal items.

10. GARAGE ORGANIZATION HELPER | Startup: \$10-\$40

What they do: Group supplies, label bins, sweep floors, and make donation or recycling piles with the owner.

Who might hire them: Families who want to find gear, tools, or seasonal items more easily.

Simple first step: Offer a two-hour reset focused on one wall or zone.

Safety note: An adult should handle heavy lifting, chemicals, tools, and anything sharp or hazardous.

11. PRESSURE-WASHING ASSISTANT | Startup: \$0-\$25

What they do: Help an adult set up, move furniture, rinse surfaces, and manage before-and-after photos for approved jobs.

Who might hire them: Homeowners getting patios, driveways, or outdoor furniture ready.

Simple first step: Work alongside a trained adult on one family project first.

Safety note: A responsible adult must operate equipment and supervise water, electrical, and surface risks.

12. WINDOW CLEANING | Startup: \$15-\$45

What they do: Clean reachable exterior or interior windows, screens, and glass doors with simple supplies.

Who might hire them: Neighbors wanting brighter windows before events or seasonal changes.

Simple first step: Create a price for a small set of ground-level windows.

Safety note: Ground-level only unless a parent approves otherwise; never use ladders alone.

13. PLANT WATERING AND GARDEN CHECKS | Startup: \$0-\$20

What they do: Water indoor plants, check garden beds, bring in mail, and send visit updates while clients travel.

Who might hire them: Neighbors away for weekends, vacations, or work travel.

Simple first step: Make a plant-care log with dates, photos, and watering notes.

Safety note: Use parent-approved homes and avoid entering alone if that is not appropriate for your family.

14. VACATION HOME CHECK-INS | Startup: \$0-\$15

What they do: Do a simple walk-through, check lights and doors, bring in packages, and

report anything unusual.

Who might hire them: Trusted neighbors away for a few days.

Simple first step: Offer a checklist-based visit to one family your parents know well.

Safety note: Parents should coordinate access, schedules, and what to do in an emergency.

15. SOCIAL MEDIA SUPPORT FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES | Startup: \$0-\$30

What they do: Turn a business owner's notes or photos into a small batch of posts and a basic content calendar.

Who might hire them: Local shops, coaches, service providers, and community groups.

Simple first step: Create three sample posts for a business you know, without publishing them.

Safety note: A parent should review client expectations; the owner keeps account control and approves every post.

16. EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY HELPER | Startup: \$0-\$75

What they do: Capture candid photos, detail shots, and simple portraits, then organize files for a family or local event.

Who might hire them: Families, school teams, community groups, and small events.

Simple first step: Build a ten-photo sample gallery at a family gathering with permission.

Safety note: Use parent-approved events and get consent before photographing or sharing images of people.

17. SHORT-FORM VIDEO EDITING | Startup: \$0-\$25

What they do: Trim clips, add captions, organize footage, and create simple vertical videos from client-supplied content.

Who might hire them: Local businesses, coaches, creators, and school organizations.

Simple first step: Edit two practice clips into a 20-second sample reel.

Safety note: Use client-approved media and keep files private; a parent can review any paid agreement.

18. TUTORING AND STUDY HELP | Startup: \$0-\$20

What they do: Help younger students practice a subject, prepare flashcards, organize homework, or build a study routine.

Who might hire them: Families with younger students needing consistent support.

Simple first step: Choose one subject you can explain clearly and create a 30-minute session outline.

Safety note: Meet in parent-approved public or supervised spaces; never present yourself as a licensed teacher.

19. TECH HELP FOR SENIORS | Startup: \$0-\$15

What they do: Teach phone basics, organize photos, set up video calls, or explain how to use common apps.

Who might hire them: Older adults who want patient, one-on-one help.

Simple first step: Write a simple lesson plan for one task, such as sending photos.

Safety note: Clients keep control of passwords, payments, and accounts; a parent should approve every visit.

20. HOLIDAY DECORATING HELPER | Startup: \$0-\$30

What they do: Set out decorations, organize bins, hang approved lights at ground level, and pack items away neatly.

Who might hire them: Families who want help before or after holidays.

Simple first step: Offer a two-hour decorating or takedown session to a trusted neighbor.

Safety note: Avoid roofs, ladders, and electrical work; adults handle anything high or heavy.

21. GIFT WRAPPING SERVICE | Startup: \$15-\$55

What they do: Wrap gifts, make tags, bundle items, and prepare a neat pickup package during busy seasons.

Who might hire them: Busy parents, teachers, and local shoppers.

Simple first step: Make five sample wrapping styles and set a per-gift or bundle price.

Safety note: Keep client gifts and addresses private; use a parent-approved pickup plan.

22. PARTY SETUP AND CLEANUP | Startup: \$0-\$25

What they do: Set tables, arrange decorations, organize games, restock supplies, and help reset the space afterward.

Who might hire them: Families hosting birthdays, showers, team parties, or neighborhood events.

Simple first step: Create a two-hour helper checklist with setup and cleanup tasks.

Safety note: Work with an adult host and avoid alcohol service, heavy lifting, or late-night shifts.

23. YOUTH SPORTS PRACTICE ASSISTANT | Startup: \$0-\$25

What they do: Help a coach or parent run drills, set out equipment, track simple stats, or encourage younger players.

Who might hire them: Youth coaches, camps, and families with younger athletes.

Simple first step: Offer to assist a familiar coach at one supervised practice.

Safety note: Stay under adult direction and work within your actual skills and any league rules.

24. CUSTOM SNACK OR CRAFT ORDERS | Startup: \$20-\$85

What they do: Make approved gift tags, bracelets, stickers, or packaged treats for preordered events and small gifts.

Who might hire them: Friends, families, school groups, and local event hosts.

Simple first step: Choose one item, calculate materials, and make a small sample batch before taking orders.

Safety note: Parents should check local food, school, and marketplace rules before accepting orders.

25. NEIGHBORHOOD RECYCLING HELPER | Startup: \$0-\$20

What they do: Sort approved recyclables, break down boxes, and bring bins to the curb or back after collection.

Who might hire them: Busy households, older neighbors, and families traveling on collection day.

Simple first step: Offer a weekly reminder-and-bin service to one nearby household.

Safety note: Use gloves and avoid sharp, dirty, or hazardous materials; parents should approve the route.