

Ep #131: Raising Exceptional Kids in an Upside Down World with Dan Louzonis



Full Episode Transcript

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David Phelps

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Dan: What I do, or what I advocate for, is the self-mastery curriculum. It's pretty obvious what that means, but it's propelled by the self. Right? You're not waiting for someone else to tell you what to do, you're going to get up and you're going to direct what you're going to do in life. This is a big, big divergence. No school in the world could really have a self-mastery curriculum.

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David: Good day everyone, this is Dr. David Phelps of the Freedom Founders Mastermind Community, and the Dentist Freedom Movement Podcast. Back to you today with a really special episode. This is something that ... The topic is going to be one that is very near and dear to my heart, because I am passionate not only about helping my colleagues, my dentists, my professional practice owners get free. But, I'm also very interested in seeing how we can help the next generation because this world is changing so fast....

The political environment, it's upside down, and I've got a gentleman on the call today that I really want to introduce my listeners to, because this should hit you home. If you've got kids or grandkids, you're gonna want to think about this.

My guest today is Dan Louzonis. Dan, how you doing sir?

Dan: I'm great. I'm doing great. How you doing?

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David: Perfect, Dan. Well, Dan, just to give our listeners a little bit of reference, you and I met just recently. And, no surprise, because I meet some of the best people, some of the most novel people in my life, at other places where there's just, what I call, high-thought leaders. People that are entrepreneurs and they always want to mix it up with other people that are doing different things, but very entrepreneurial. The thing that really brought my attention to you was that you were sitting at one of the tables that was actually at a Dan Kennedy ... really a pretty high-end conference that Dan does once a year, and you were sitting at a table. And I saw next to you was this young kid. A young kid with glasses on and he's actually sitting there like behaved, and he was paying attention to Dan Kennedy speaking about a 30,000 feet concepts that most people in their lifetime don't even dream about.

And there's this young man, quite attentive, and I'm thinking, "What's up with that?" I mean, some of the people there brought their kids, but not young kids. Maybe adult, late teens, in their 20s. And then you got a chance to speak from the front of the room and I got to meet you and meet your son, John. And you spoke for fifteen minutes and just told them about your passion. And that's what I was so interested about, so I hope that I've got people's interest right now. I wanna gonna give them a little bit of your background, Dan, then let's jump into the heart of the matter here today.

Dan, you grew up in Massachusetts. You were what you call, yourself, a super star mathlete in high school. You leveraged that into getting into Ivy League college. You attended University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Graduated early in 1995 with degrees both in Mathematics and Economics. Just before you were about

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to go into a PhD program you discovered the lucrative opportunities in trading stock options on the floor of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange. You threw your grad school applications in the trash and you embarked on, what you call, a wild career trading derivatives.

I just gotta ask you, Dan, were you responsible for the downturn back in 2008? Were you a part of that?

Dan: You're not the first person to ask. My golf buddies, my South Philadelphia goombas and jibronies, they used to always say that the stock market was fine until me and my buddy, who they also knew, started working on the stock exchange and they blamed everything on us. Yeah, it was us.

David: Well there you go, folks, we finally got to the heart of it. It was Dan. It was Dan.

2001 you probably made your greatest sale ever. Chased a girl to New York, who eventually gave in, married you and blessed you with, now, your two amazing children. John, your first-born, was three and a half years old when you started working intensely with him. Especially on math. Now, obviously, you come from a math background. You're like a math progeny and so you started working with John when he was three and a half. And you said only in a year and a half, John went from just counting all the way up to starting Algebra! In one and a half years. And by six he read all the Harry Potter books. By seven, he had even begun calculus. My gosh, calculus at age seven. Then became a piano prodigy, he's won major chess tournaments in New York City, landed his first website design client when he was 10, at 11 he scored 1270 on the SATs. 1270 at 11, I couldn't

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score 1200 at 17. He published his own podcast, that's John again, and he at age 12 has already attended five major marketing conferences.

Yeah, I saw him at the last one.

Dan, you realized that you have inadvertently stumbled upon a formula, some kind of blueprint that would unleash the exponential potential within children. And so, John, your son, and his sister Christine were so advanced they simply couldn't go to regular school. It was out. So homeschooling was the option. And not only allowed them to winter each year on the beaches of Florida, they didn't have to be tied to a school schedule, you guys could travel. But you've also taken them overseas.

I've looked at your websites and you guys have traveled incredible places. You moved to London for a full year in 2014 and you traveled to thirteen other countries. So the last five years, Dan, you left the stock exchange. You left the world of trading stocks, options, commodities, indexes, and futures and you reinvented yourself, now, as, what you deem yourself, as a child acceleration specialist. So now you're working with other families, parents, and directly with children in numerous capacities all over the world, to show them some of the advances in accelerating child growth and development that you've learned. So, let's jump into that.

Obviously, you care about your kids. I care about my kids. A lot of people care about their kids. But you basically gave up a lucrative career because you found something that was working for your kids. And now you're very passionate about it obviously. Now, I just gotta ask this one question before we dive into this. Dan, you're

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obviously a smart guy. I mean, you're Ivy League ... don't you think there's DNA in there somewhere that allows John and Christine to be so good? I mean, is this gonna work for my kid if my kid just doesn't quite have that same intellect? Tell me about that.

Dan: Well, have you read the book *Outliers*?

David: I have. Yes.

Dan: So, *Outliers* ... I'm not a math prodigy. Well, couple things. First of all, I never stopped working. I could trade while from home, over the internet, while my kids were little. Trading is not client-facing, you can put bets on and you can walk away for a minute, hour, days, weeks or whatever. So I really have never stopped working.

So, the DNA argument, I've heard it all the time. And, I was not a math prodigy, I was what you would call grind or hack and I knew it. The kids I competed with when I was young were all smarter than me. And so I just outworked them. I was doing math problems in the summer that nobody else was doing. And I was just kind of very stubborn. When I couldn't figure out a math question I would work really, really hard at it. And I guess it was an ego thing, I just ... it was this thing that I had. If I had a gift it was just this gift of intellectual stubbornness.

So, later on, when I read *Outliers*, and I read the story of how Tiger Woods had his 10,000 hours of golfing by age 12 and how the Beatles got 10,000 hours of onstage, improvising and performing, and how Bill Gates got his 10,000 hours in coding. And, basically, what *Outliers* was saying, that success is a matter, strictly, of hard work. It has nothing to do with DNA, talent or giftedness.

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That book spoke to me. That book resonated with me. And I want to stay on that book for a second, because the other thing about that book that nobody understands or nobody gleans from it, is that in order to get 10,000 hours in on a subject a child needs facilitation from the parents. Right? I mean, I read that book, and if you've read it I would encourage any parent who may have read it 10 years ago go back and read it through the lens of a parent. Say, "hey, how can I get my kid 10,000 hours in on something? Or even 5,000 hours."

So that was definitely a ... I wouldn't say a cymbal clash in my brain, when I read that there was definitely resistance there. I have never ever considered myself to be smart, I flunked my driver's test three times. And I can tell you that I've been hitting golf balls into the trees on the right for 30 years and I could give you more and more self-deprecating, embarrassing examples of me not being smart. And even if you went further, if you looked at Albert Einstein or studied Albert Einstein, Albert Einstein used to get locked out of his apartment all the time. And people think of him as a genius.

David: Right.

Dan: He used to forget his luggage places. And so, nobody really has giftedness in every single area. I mean, that would be ... you would have to be God to be gifted in every single area. Nobody's, including my son ... My son has many, many weaknesses. My daughter has many, many weaknesses. I have many, many weaknesses. We all do. That whole argument about people being, "oh you're smart so your kids must be smart," that's really just kind of a way for people to kind of discount.

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I mean, how would you like it if someone said to you, "You're just successful because you got lucky." Right? Or if somebody said that to Mark Zuckerberg. They said "no, you don't how many hours I was working at this."

The DNA thing really doesn't exist. DNA maybe gives somebody a slight edge at the start, and I tell people this. Now say a child is good at math and it takes him two reps to get a concept. The person who it takes 10 or 20 reps they might become better than the person who got it on the second rep very easily. It doesn't matter how long it takes to get it. What matters is persistence and hard work. And that's kind of, I would say, the essence of my Einstein blueprint and everything I do with kids. I try to get the reps in. And I don't even want to hear about, my kid has learning disabilities. My kid has ... is gifted. My kid is this. I don't even want to hear it. I don't like to hear limiting beliefs. I think one of the worst things a parent can do is put limiting beliefs on themselves or their kids. I believe, fundamentally, that all kids have infinite potential within them. Vast stores of infinite potential.

David: Yeah, thanks for clarifying that. I just ... because I think that's one of the things that people jump to. And sometimes I just try to be Devil's Advocate on these interviews just to throw off questions that I think may be in the minds of some listeners. So, great, great answer. And I agree, the book *Outliers* is something that everybody should read. And you said from the perspective of being a parent.

Let's talk about what we know, Dan, is one of the big problems today and that is the current education system. Just take me through it a little bit, as to, what you see and what's happening to our generations that are coming up

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through that today. And how the heck are we going to turn back the indoctrination that's happening?

Dan: Okay.

So this is a big, big topic obviously. We could speak for days on this.

David: Yeah.

Dan: One of the formative books that I read is The Underground History of Education. And it's a book that's kind of hard to find, but if you Google it, The Underground History of Education space PDF, you'll find a PDF online. The guy doesn't care, he put it out there for free. And there's a whole story why it's out there for free. The publishers wouldn't publish what he discovered.

David: Wow.

Dan: The reality is that schools ... and I ask teachers this all the time and I ask people who are school apologists all the time, I say, "do you know who invented school? Do you know when it was invented? And why it was invented?" And these are just basic questions. And nobody knows the answers. I didn't know the answers. The answers are not in history books, they're not taught. And the reality is, school is a very recent invention. It was, really, only invented in America in about 1850. And it's history. It was only in about 1850 and it was invented as a tool to create a control population. It wasn't invented as a way to give rural kids literacy. Alright?

So the roots of it ... and this is all well documented by John Taylor Gatto, the man who wrote that book, and I wouldn't even try to paraphrase his book. I'd rather just

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point you towards the source. So, that's the history of school. And it's iterated a few times in around 1900 there was this massive wave of immigration. There were Latins and Poles and Italians and Irish that came over to America and the people that ran the government, the robber barons, they saw the schools as the only way to tame this wild horde. And why would they want to tame these dirty immigrants?

Well, they wanted them to be compliant factory workers. The things that they feared the worst at the time were labor strikes. And so the schools iterated around 1900 and became a little bit, I don't want to sound too conspiratorial, but this all fact and people can go read the book, they became a tool to separate immigrants from their actual culture. If you were Italian they wanted you to speak English. And the people who ran the school system, who started to really power the school system, they saw anything that got in the way of this Americanization ... And this is where the Pledge of Allegiance comes from by the way.

So the Pledge of Allegiance was one of these tool that they threw in there. They wanted the Italian kids, the Irish kids, and the Polish kids to stand up and pledge allegiance to America. They were all rituals to separate children from their culture, from their native tongue, from their parents, so that they would be subject to their boss and they would be obedient workers.

And so this is ... I'm just giving you a window into John Taylor Gatto's work, because it goes from what you see today in a classroom where they're teaching all sorts of propaganda, this has roots going back well over 100 years. So, it's no surprise that what's going on now is not

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new, it always was machinery to tame people. It was not machinery to unlock full potential.

So, as a parent, my job is to unlock my kids full potential. And school, what it is, effectively, it's an obedience curriculum. It's not ... when they assign a book to students and they test them on it, they just want to know if you follow directions. They don't really care if you learned, they wanna know if you followed directions. That test is a test to see, or a filter to see, who paid attention. And they will grade and sort people in the classroom accordingly.

What I do, or what I advocate for, is a self-mastery curriculum. It's pretty obvious what that means, but it's propelled by the self. Right? You're not waiting for someone else to tell you what to do, you're going to get up and you're going to direct what you're going to do in life. This is a big, big divergence. No school in the world could really have a self-mastery curriculum. Unless it has three or four kids in a classroom and unless it's not under the thumb of accreditation and unless people in the school, including the parents and the teachers, don't care about SATs and other exams.

So, I hope I didn't too far afield there, but, like I said, this is a very big topic. And school is, again, it's an obedience curriculum it's not designed to unleash anyone's full potential. And, also, it drives a wedge between children and their parents.

I'll leave it with this. So, when I was a kid, and probably when you were a kid, you probably didn't think about your parents at all.

David: Right.

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Dan: I didn't think about my parents. All I thought about was what was going on amongst my friends. I had a peer-entered culture.

David: Right.

Dan: And I didn't ... that's a wedge that was intentional going back to 1900 and 1850.

David: I've already pulled up that PDF. Thanks for that resource. Yeah, I agree, there's so much to go there. That's a great link.

Did John and Christine, Dan, did they ever start public school? Or you and your wife never let them?

Dan: No, like I said, John started Algebra nine months before kindergarten. And I could ... right away he wasn't gonna go. So I made 100 percent that he was gonna be homeschooled. And I have to add that I never even heard the word homeschool until I was 30 years old. I didn't know anything about it, I thought it was weird, I thought how do kids get ... I didn't use the word socialized, I at least had the sense to know that was a stupid word before I understood how stupid it was. But, I didn't know anything about it, but I could see that he wasn't gonna be able to go to school because the kindergarten in our town, that everybody pays all their taxes for, they had their goal for the kids to count to 10 by the end of the year and know how to hold a book. Not write a book. Not read a book. But know how to hold a book. And so, John was nine months ... he had nine months before he would start and he was already doing Algebra.

I had no idea where he'd be, but I knew he wasn't going to be in a school. When I made 100 percent, my wife said

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20 percent, 25 percent. She said something, which I still tease her with now, she said, "I don't want our kids to grow up to be too different." Now, our goal is we want our kids to be as different as freakin' possible. We want them to be jaw-dropping, eye-opening, mind-blowing, as weird as you can get. And there's a great meme out there that says, "Weird is a side effect of awesome."

Never spent a day in school. And they'll never go to college either, because John would have had to go to college a few years ago to get anything out of it. And Christine is accelerated as well and, then, we can go into the college discussion if we want.

David: Yeah. So, you tipped that way, let's go that way. Then I want to come back to homeschooling, because I think there's a lot of myths about that as well. But, let's talk about college.

I went to college, you went to college, your wife went to college, but your kids right now, as you see it, will never go to college. Now, for a lot of parents they would think, "Well, I want my kid to be a professional, get a career, and they need those degrees." Or if they want to be an engineer or physicist, they got to have degrees. If you say no college, what do you see for John and Christine? What will they go do? Obviously, they're gonna be a master of their future, you're setting them up for that. How do you see that working for them?

Dan: Well, they're already doing a bunch of little entrepreneurial things. Five years from now I assume John will have 20 different things going on, and the same with his sister. There won't be any juncture where they have to decide, "am I gonna go to college or not?" What

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happens is, most 18 year olds graduate high school and they haven't been selling things, they don't have side gigs that are making money already, they don't have mentors, they haven't been reading self-help books. Really, they don't have a second option. So college is a placeholder.

College today, it's really ... you know, and I had a great time in college, to say that I didn't have a good time in college ... and I'll give you this analogy or this argument in a second. People say to me, "I love college, I would never want to deny my kids a college experience." You have to understand why you love college.

I loved it as well and I would even get competitive and say, "I bet I had more fun than you. I got arrested and I did this and I did that." But, I'm pretty sure that a conjugal visit is awesome. But you have to be in prison to fully appreciate how awesome it is. This is the analogy I use. It's like the same thing, college is awesome because you've been pent up for all these years. You've been unnaturally I think the expression that John Gatto uses is "deferred adulthood." You've been ... and this is why teenagers rebel by the way, it's not natural to take teenagers and let them have no say in their life. No say in their day. Give them no responsibility til they're 18 years old. Of course when they got to college it's going to seem great. Of course they're going to skip school. Of course they're gonna start partying left and right. They're going to do all these things and it's going to seem great, but it's only going to seem great in comparison to where they're coming from.

They have statistics on what homeschooled kids do when they go to college and they're first quarter GPAs are

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significantly, significantly higher because they're not acting out.

David: Right. Right.

Dan: And they don't have anything to get out of their system.

David: Yeah. That makes good sense.

Let's talk about homeschooling. I know a number of kids that have been homeschooled, and from big families. We were talking about that earlier. Big families that, no way they could even afford to send their kids, because the bread winner is just not in that high of a income status. But these kids are just As you're describing As I look at your son, John, and how you describe Christine, that's what these kids are. They are awesome kids in their intellect and their maturity levels and they're actually able to think constructively and critically as opposed to just spitting out stuff they memorized in school.

Homeschooling, the concept itself, and for a lot of people it is new or a lot of people would think, "sounds great, Dan, but there's no way I could teach my kids." So beak up some of the myths and talk about how people are really getting homeschooling done for the kids who want to do it that way today.

Dan: Right, well, there's that great expression, "whether you think you can or think you can't, you're right." And that's Henry Ford.

David: Right.

Dan: I know people who have 10s of millions of dollars or even more, I could name one multi-billionaire but I won't name

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him, whose scared to homeschool. And I could show you single, minority moms in Brooklyn who homeschool without missing a beat and work three jobs and do a fantastic job.

Anybody can do it. The limiting belief thing ... and limiting beliefs they have their root in our schooling. I had them myself, and I had to constantly become aware of them and exorcize them. But anybody can homeschool if they want.

One of the problems with homeschooling is a messaging problem. We're never home and we don't do school. And so, just the word itself is off putting. The only reason I bought Homeschooldad.com as one of my domains is because people search for it. But I try to refer to it as education outside the system. Some people like ... they say they're kid is independently educated. Or, sometimes, people ask me where my kids go to school, I just say they don't go to school, rather than say they're homeschooled and conjure up that image ... that bad misconception in their brain. Because, we're never home.

We've been to 13 countries, we travel all the time. We're in libraries, we're all over New York. If not Tennessee, if not where I met you in Ohio, or Florida. We're all over the place. We're never home and we don't do school. We don't do quizzes, we don't do textbooks, we don't do a hard schedule like most other people do.

Let me just tell you how people can homeschool. And I will preface this by saying that the group that is most against homeschooling is close to your group. It's doctors. Doctors are the ones who are least likely to ever homeschool. And if it went even further I'd say it's Asian

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doctors. There are more black and Hispanics that homeschool than there are Asians. And, doctors are generally adverse to homeschooling because doctors were top of their class.

David: Right.

Dan: And school anointed them as being very successful, very smart. And school is a big part of their ego. And so, that doesn't mean we don't have plenty of doctors who do it and I have a friend who went to Harvard and she was a doctor and she completely left practicing so she could homeschool her five kids.

David: Wow.

Dan: I mean there's many, many counter examples. I don't want to generalize too much here, but this is definitely a theme. I know when I talk to someone, if the wife is a doctor or the husband's a doctor, it's always gonna be a tough sell.

So, some people ... well the biggest group that's growing now in the homeschooling community is, I would say, private homeschooling, or it's growing among the ultra wealthy. There are about three million kids now that are homeschooled and the ultra wealthy And I talked to this guy, I think I might have even mentioned him to you before, this one guy, I estimated he earned 100 million dollars a year, and he had two six-year-olds. And he had to be home on Sunday night for them to go to school. And he had property in California and London and all over the place. And he had his own jet, and he still had to be home on Sunday night for his kids to go to school.

David: Wow.

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Dan: So it's like, homeschooling Why wouldn't you homeschool? Why would you put your kids in school? These people, they're just like you and I and everyone else, they're scared to do it. Or their wife is scared to. They think it's more work. And I have to try and convince them, if I can get them on the phone, if I can get them to crack open their mind, that it's less work. That it's easier, that it's more effective and it's ... there's zero trade offs. I tell people there's absolutely no trade offs to homeschooling. It's cheaper, forges tighter family bonds, makes your kids happier, it protects your kids more, gives you more flexibility, you can get better teachers, you can be more flexible with resources. There's so many ... there's not one negative with homeschooling.

If you can get started.

There is one thing that ... I mean, you can still mess it up, and if you want we can talk into that. We can talk about that. But, the ultra wealthy are hiring people and they can hire people straight off of Craigslist and websites like Wyzant or they can actually hire a What I recommend people do is hire a veteran homeschool mom or dad, but mostly mom, to take on your kids. So I find a veteran mom whose kids have flown the coop and she's raised seven kids and the kids are all world leaders and I say to her, "hey do you want to privately homeschool these kids?" And usually I have to talk some sense into her, because she doesn't even know what I'm talking about, and I will make the match. You don't need me to do this, anybody can do this on their own, although I can do this much easier for people because they can be hard to find. But, yeah, you just hire a veteran homeschool mom.

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I tell this funny story about how this one family I was working with, and he put adds out to hire teachers. He wasn't gonna do any of the homeschooling himself, he was gonna hire tons of teachers and spend 5,000 dollars a month on teachers. And he says, "oh we've got somebody from Harvard here." And he was all jacked up and all geeked up that somebody from Harvard was gonna teach his kids.

David: Right.

Dan: I'm getting the message late at night and I told him to calm down and I said, "bet you don't have any Harvard teachers at that fancy school you send your kids to."

No, of course they don't.

So, then we actually brought in an MIT guy, we tried him out to teach math. We rejected the Harvard guy, we rejected the MIT guy. And we found someone even better. Just think of his excitement at the idea that he could hire somebody from Harvard to teach his kids directly. And you can do it a lot cheaper than 5,000 dollars a month, by the way.

But this is the big segment in anywhere between hiring everybody to homeschool your kids or doing it all yourself. There's a whole spectrum.

Now, I do a lot of stuff myself, but I don't teach piano. I don't teach guitar. My kids sign up and they take classes at museums. They have all sorts of other teachers. So there's a whole spectrum of ways that you can get it done. Some people can do it all themselves. Some kids can go online and order ... read books and do things and find mentors and parents don't even spend nickel. So you can

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spend as much money as you want or as little as you want. And I actually think the less money you spend, I think the better off your kids are. Right? I really believe that based on all my experience.

Anybody can do it if they set their mind to it. If they do research. If they get both parents on board, although, sadly, a lot of times there's one parent that's not on board and one parent has to kind of force it on the other one and that's not an ideal situation, but that's ... this is life. People don't agree ... husbands and wives, we wouldn't have a 50 percent divorce rate if husbands and wives were on the same page about big things.

I hope I That's a little bit of a primer on homeschooling. I could go in a lot more directions. I could talk about how homeschooling allows you to fill in the blanks from school. For example, one thing that I didn't get enough of in school was art and music.

David: Right. Right.

Dan: In fact, I didn't And how important is creativity in life?

David: Oh, yes.

Dan: How important is the ability to solve problems? Creativity doesn't mean oil paints. It means connecting ideas from different fields and figuring out solutions. And all day long, as a parent, as a business owner, as a husband, as a wife, you're solving problems. As a homeowner. You're solving problems. You need to muster creativity. But we don't even learn this.

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The number one Ted Talk is by Sir Ken Robinson, it's the number one of all time. It's titled, "Do Schools Kill Creativity". This is one you definitely want to link to.

David: Okay.

Dan: Think about all the Ted Talks and how many millions upon millions of views. Number one out there is "Do Schools Kill Creativity".

Creativity is a big, big deal and it's more important that your kids can do art and music than they can do the metric system. It's more important than ... well I'll leave it at that, but it's very, very important for their intellectual well-roundedness.

David: Yeah, you know, Dan, I have a good friend and I was just talking to him the other day and he was very adamant about having his kids learn to play the piano. And he said when they went to the recitals that, predominately, there were Asian families there with their kids. And he kind of looked around, checked around, and he asked some of the people who organize it, "Well how come there is so much of an Asian culture here?"

They said, "because the Asian people understand that music..." I think he said, "develops the whole body." And you just said, creativity, and he said that's why they do it. And we know the Asian culture people are very entrepreneurial and very smart in so many ways. So, I think that's a huge one.

Dan: I'm surprised that he just learned that. What kind of homogenous environment did he grow up in, you know.

David: Yeah, I suppose. I suppose.

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Dan: Well ambidexterity is one thing that playing the piano If you do any research on ambidexterity, I don't know if you're familiar with Matt Furey. I assume you are.

David: Yes. Yes. Yes.

Dan: Matt Furey turned me on to ambidexterity and there's all this research that when you use both hands you use both hemispheres of the brain. And you create more neural pathways connecting both sides of the brain. And Leonardo DiCap ... not Leonardo DiCaprio. Leonardo da Vinci, big difference right, he could write with both hands. Draw with one hand and write with the other. The guy's book who I read, I think the name of the book is called "Whole Brain Power", he talked about how he believes Tiger Woods is ambidextrism and Phil Mickelson as well, and other people. So this is another one of these hacks. And when your kid plays the piano or any of these other instruments, they are using both hands in developing fine motor skills and coordination and all sorts of other things.

There are problems with the way ... I would never send my kid to a music school where they did recitals, because You can mess anything up and schools mess up reading and they mess up math and there are ways to mess up music. We don't do recitals, we let the kids pick the songs, at least half the songs that they want to play and they could be from a Disney movie; my son liked Star Wars songs. We don't go down the perfectionism route, which is what those recitals are all about. And, as you know, in entrepreneurial circles that perfectionism is ...can be fatal.

A lot of these old school music people, they just keep teaching things the way they were taught it themselves

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and, you can even look online at how many of these kids who did play the piano at high levels have quit when they were aged 18 or 19 years old. There's a famous book on it called "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mom", which has kind of popularized the notion of the Asian mom who is very, very involved with her kids. And it's turned the word Tiger Mom into, I would say a stigmatic pejorative, that people use to dismiss even me.

That's a shame, because I believe that they are right. The stereotypical Asian mom believes that parents should be very involved in their kids' education. The people criticizing her believe the opposite. They believe, if they have a belief it's by default, that you don't get involved. That the school educates their kids. And that's an oversight, that's a very big oversight.

Getting back, one thing I want to mention about schools is that if you went back 70 years ago and looked at a school, or looked at society 70 years ago, everything was different. Transportation was different. Communications were different. Families were different. Technology was different 20 years ago. So if you went back 70 years ago, everything was different, but the classroom would look largely the same. Not with standing iPads in the classroom and these Smart Boards and kids having cellphones under their desk. It would look largely the same. In other words, it has not evolved. And I did use a line in one of my articles about thinking school would unlock your potential is like "trying to accelerate a Tesla with a buggy whip." The whole economy has changed and, you could argue on cost alone, that kids shouldn't do school and college. Because, school is nothing but prep for college. There's so many other It's just the

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education that they come out with is not even really an education.

The kids don't retain anything. There's statistics, I mean there's all sorts of studies on how fast kids forget things. I don't remember any of the stuff that I learned in science or history class. But if you were to ask my kids, they retain it all, because they're taught it This is beyond the scope of this interview, but there are ways to teach every single subject in school better. Because you can teach them all better and faster, because you can be done math at age eight, you can do chess. You can an hour a day of piano. You can do all these things. But, if you're spending a lot of time on math and reading and going very slowly then your friend whose son or daughter wants to play the piano, they're not going to have an hour a day to play the piano. If they don't play the piano every day, they're not going to get good at it. If they don't get good at it, they're not going to like it and it will just fade.

I have a student whose an unbelievable pianist, and he had to quit playing when he was 14 because of the weight of homework. What a shame. A child should not have to quit a musical instrument. This is something ... a gift they should have, be able to hone for life. And now there's a big difference between playing a little bit of piano when you're young and then, like my daughter whose trying to start her fourth instrument. I've heard of homeschool kids who play 10 instruments. This is the type of stuff that's available. This is the type of abundance that's available when you get efficient about things. When you stop wasting time and when you, basically

Homeschooling isn't a new thing. It's when you come back to the idea that education is all self-education. I think

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Issac Asimov said that. He said, "All education is self-education." And that learning is an individual journey. It's what happens between somebody's ears, it's not a place, it's not a degree, it's not a core curriculum, it's not grades, it's none of that stuff. It's about what's going on between somebody's ears right now.

David:

Well, Dan Dan you've really set a whale and you know I'm a huge fan. I'm just a few years ahead of you. My one child, my daughter, is 25, so I missed the opportunity. But I will tell you today, if I had insights and knew what you were doing I would be all in, because this is the way to help our kids be resourceful. It's a way that we can turn back the tide of what's been happening in our culture, our society. I mean, so many negative things are occurring. And the current state of education. But, as you said, it started a century ago with an agenda in mind. It's been dumbing down the society for many, many years.

If parents really, really want to help their kids and, as you said, accelerate their kids and make them resourceful and entrepreneurial, you've got to get them out of the school system and take some responsibility. It's not as difficult as people think it is. And that's what you're breaking through. And I applaud you for that because your kids are gonna do great, but you don't want to stop there. You're out there helping.

And, so, talk just briefly a little bit about how you are able to make yourself available to parents who would like to get involved and figure out ... you know, someone who has figured it out, as you have, how to make this happen for their kids.

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Dan: Well it's always a long conversation. I had a woman at my house yesterday who was thinking about homeschooling, and I spoke to her on the phone and I invited her over to my house because you can't describe to somebody what lobster tastes like. It doesn't matter how articulate you are, you could be Shakespeare, you can't describe it. They have to taste it for themselves. And so, what I've learned is that people need to come, they need to meet my kids, they need to see how I've set up the household, they need to get beyond the theoretical and touch things. And see the books that we have and see my daily schedule. And so, that's kind of what I do on a micro-level. I try to help people either through a YouTube video, through a podcast, through blog posts.

I'm sort of new at this. It's only about two and a half years ago that I really hung out a sign and said, you know, I have time and energy to help people. And most of the people that I help, I helped totally for free. There are a handful of people that I charge a lot of money, who want me to work directly with their kids. And for the moment, I've been very okay with that relationship. If someone's listening to me and they want to reach out to me, they can e-mail me. I'm at dan@homeschooldad.com or dan@einsteinblueprint.com.

And let me just tell you about the distinction there, because if I say I'm from homeschooldad.com, most people run from me. And so, what I've done is I've reinvented myself to try to be more marketable, because anyone can benefit from the strategies that I do with my kids. Now, I have to remind everybody that I got my son to Algebra at age five. What I did with him was between ages three and five. Whether you're going to homeschool your kid or just want to accelerate them, give them a

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massive head start on school, everybody has that opportunity, ages three to five, on what they can do.

That is kind of ... that is the one spot that people ignore. They think learning happens at school, it'll happen eventually. Like I said earlier, I discovered all this stuff that what goes on between those early years between ages three and five is just critical. I've been redefining my mission, refocusing my marketing, and trying to really get to parents who have young children. Because, once the kids are older, their parents actually run from me. They don't wanna have nothing to do with me. I've had people tell me that, my husband or my wife won't let me talk to you. Literally. It depresses me to no end.

This isn't like a money thing or anything like that, if I was about money I'd stick with hedge fund stuff and trading derivatives and futures and all that stuff. I'm very, very passionate about this. I've never once met a family or a child who I couldn't help immensely, instantaneously.

And we didn't even get to the one big elephant in the room, the one thing that's messing everything up; school, it's messing up homeschool, it's messing up relationship, we didn't even get to the technology

David: Right, right.

Dan: That is, I believe, Kurt Vonnegut said that - and he's a big anti-TV guy - he said that, "someday in the future historians will see television as the lead in the water pipes -"

David: Wow.

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Dan: "- That basically killed the generation or killed society."
And that's just television.

The stuff that I do with families is not exactly what I want to do. I would rather work with them on getting their kids at intermediate levels of chess and entrepreneurship and a lot of them can't get past the iPad. They can't get past video games. This is just ... as you can see we could go in a hundred different directions here and never finish. My ability to help people is kind of limited by how much my information they consume and how much access to me they can get. And how open they are to ideas that really, really mess people up.

When I told this women yesterday that she needed to get rid of her movie night every week with her kids, you would have thought somebody died.

David: Ha, yeah.

Dan: And she's like, "I'm already the strictest parent. I'm already this, I'm already that." And I said, "Look, if you want them to read. If you want them to read right away and you need to work and you want your homeschool to go vertical, you have to get rid of the screens." And I, literally, had one client pay me 10,000 dollars, we sat for three days and all we talked about, or all I talked about, was how he needed to get the eight televisions out of his house.

And he did. And if I talk to his kids now. You know, one kid went from first grade to six, seventh grade math in a year and a half. Try to put a value on that. Is that worth ... is television worth that?

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We have two things, two big villains. It's school and it's the technology. People who design these devices, there's plenty of research you can do on it, but they're designing these devices to ... you talk about making sure we ... or suffocating someone's human potential. The guy who designs Facebook, he wants you on Facebook three hours a day. He's spending all this time, he's got all these resources, and he's figuring out how to drip notifications to you so that you keep coming back. He knows you get a dopamine hit when you see three written notifications. Instead of showing you six notifications, he shows you three now and then he'll show you three later on. And so on and so forth.

Those screens ... our ability to limit and regulate those screens in our lives, in our kids' lives is We're almost ... collectively we're helpless. If you put your kid in the elementary school here, it used to be that the sixth graders all got iPhones when they graduated. This was just a couple years ago. Now every kid, down through third grade, has their own iPhone.

David: It's amazing. It truly is.

Dan: It used to be that you couldn't take your iPhone out. Now they have the iPhones in the classroom. The teachers, Spanish teacher will say, "take out your phones and we're gonna do a quizlet on your phones."

Could you imagine a teacher letting kids take phones out. And they have full data and access to YouTube and every video ga ... everything else and the teacher's telling them to take the phones out. This is what we're up against, as parents, when we try to educate our kids. And this is why homeschooling is growing. Is a viral movement. From the

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Christians to the Muslims to the Orthodox Jews to the secular people. You can't control If you want to control the output, which is your kids, if you want to control long-term outcomes you have to have a big say and a lot of control over the inputs. And once the kids leave your house you're forfeiting a lot of that control.

David: No question.

Well, Dan, this has really, really been a great subject to talk about today. I know we just barely scratched the surface. You've got so much depth on the subject. And, again, I would just recommend people pick up link on education that you gave us. And it was "The Underground History on American Education". I would definitely recommend people grab that. And then, you know, go to your websites, homeschooldad.com or the einsteinblueprint.com and do some homework, parents, on this. And really look and see what can be done to change the course of the direction of your kids. And, therefore, the course of the direction of this country.

If someone's gonna do it, it's gotta start there. And, Dan, I applaud you. Thank you so much for the time today. And I'm gonna stay connected with you, because you're doing a great thing.

No, truly. Truly. You're doing a great thing and I appreciate it.

Dan: It's my pleasure. Anytime you want me back, I love to talk this stuff.

David: Well definitely come back. Thank you, sir.

Dan: Alright.

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David: Take care.

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