



BIZ KID\$  
Episode 305: "Escape the Box"

Day Two  
Introduction

Play part of the theme music for "Biz Kid\$" from the episode intro to motivate and engage the students. Then stop the music, welcome the students to today's session, and introduce yourself. If needed, ask students to please use their name tags.

Review and Connect with the Previous Session

Episode 305, "Escape the Box", is all about what to do when opportunity knocks. It's also about recognizing new opportunities in your life, and being creative in problem solving.

Innovative thinking is a powerful force in business, and goes beyond conventional thinking to solve problems in unique ways. We met Max, an innovator for the people, who designed products to solve problems, such as the booster step with handle; the walk and wait cane; the carpal cushion; and the "Home Dome" to shelter homeless people. Max's philosophy is, "If you have the ability to help others, you have the responsibility to do so."

Amiya, the dancing queen, created her own business, a pink dance studio inside a converted bus that drives to different locations to teach her students. She was eleven when she "thought outside the box" and went through the steps to create a business. She learned about insurance, loans, patents, getting supplies, and doing whatever it took to succeed. Her motto is, "Never say can't!"





Adrian, the basketball-loving Biz Kid, invented "All Net", a bag for carrying basketballs that is a net. Along with ideas from friends and family, he developed his own way to market the product. Other entrepreneurs would come to him with questions so he established a program called "Dreams Are Contagious" to help other young entrepreneurs develop their ideas.

Gabe and Jake created "Rockin' with Bach and the Gang", a board game about classical music that plays music using an "RFID" (Radio Frequency Identification Device) in the game cards. In creating and improving their product, they held focus groups; talked with teachers, parents, and friends; test-played the game with different people; listened to suggestions from others; and sought mentors to help them in development and marketing. Their motto is, "If you can think it, you can do it."

And finally we met Emily, the movie geek who writes, directs, and produces zombie movies. She has to use what she has to make the films; for her, failure was not an option.

These Biz Kids shared some common traits. Let's take a few minutes and see how many traits and behaviors you can list.

(Teacher, please list students' ideas so they can continue to see them and refer to them during the session.)

Suggestions might include:

- Write down ideas
- Brainstorm
- Identify a need
- Look for a creative solution
- Rest your brain for awhile by riding a bike or doing a different activity





- Draw pictures of your ideas
- Talk to friends and family to refine your ideas
- Seek adult mentors
- Write letters
- Keep trying
- Enter contests for new inventions
- Make a prototype
- Be persistent
- Ask questions
- Day dream
- Listen to your intuition
- Expect challenges
- Trust what you know
- Think of a problem as an opportunity
- Spot new trends

### Activity

Give students a moment to stretch, and then ask them to please be seated. Distribute blank drawing paper and pencils to students and ask them to think of things that spark their imaginations. They are going to spend about five minutes just drawing their ideas on paper, as many or as few as they wish. If they can't think of something, ask them to draw one of the inventions they saw on the Biz Kids episode and add something to it, or change it in some way.

Next, have students share their drawings/ideas with each other in small groups. As each student shares, allow positive comments from others in the group, or suggestions /ideas of ways to improve the "invention" or "product."(Learning to accept suggestions is a valuable skill in becoming successful!)





Finally, give students fresh drawing paper to refine their prototype, and have them write about it and how the product will fill a need and perhaps be a creative solution. They can name their product and have a large group sharing time. Remind students that all ideas are worth considering, not to “edit” their thinking during the imagination phase.

In closing, encourage students to look at problems as possible opportunities for them to be creative problem solvers, to think “outside the box”! Distribute the “Family Activity Sheet” and the “Biz Terms Sheet” for Episode 305.

