

## It's Never Too Early to Get Ready for School (podcast)


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[\[http://hotchalk.com\]](http://hotchalk.com)


Having children enter the public school system this last year has really opened my eyes up to a number of things that only parents can identify with. Not only is my son becoming something resembling a person (as opposed to a chubby mass of toddler cuteness), he's exposed to teachings outside the normal curriculum of information I'd normally expose him to (for instance, unlike the local public school system, I probably wouldn't have spent a week of lessons centering around the ins and outs of recycling).



It's not to the point where I feel like I need to intervene and start suggesting alternative topics for my son's teachers, but it is making me aware the need to be in touch with what it is the teachers do with our children during the days, and the importance of having a hand in helping your child get the best education possible.

That's why it was refreshing to sit down with Edward Fields recently on Mashable Conversations and talk with him about what he's doing as CEO of [HotChalk](http://hotchalk.com)  [\[http://hotchalk.com\]](http://hotchalk.com). They're a niche social network for students, teachers and parents that uses the power of quality user-generated-content to improve the education experience for all involved. It's a place for teachers to share in lesson plans that cater to students at all levels of development, parents to stay in touch with what the kids are learning, and kids to better understand and relate the the curriculum they're being taught.

This is one of the most apt and useful applications of the niche social network concept I've come across. If you have a school-aged child or are a teacher, this is a must-see site.

Listen to the [MP3](http://media.libsyn.com/media/mashable/edward-fields-hotchalk.mp3)  [\[http://media.libsyn.com/media/mashable/edward-fields-hotchalk.mp3\]](http://media.libsyn.com/media/mashable/edward-fields-hotchalk.mp3) to hear more from CEO Edward Fields and I as we discuss American education and how HotChalk aims to help our children succeed in learning.

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