

## The Importance of the Right Mentor

We start out in life with our parents lavishing praise such as "Isn't it great how Johnny spills his milk?" This comes from unconditional love, and as such it is invaluable. But it must be recognized too. For as a person embraces new talents in their "Midlife Epiphany" they will surely need encouragement. But that encouragement must be augmented with genuine words of wisdom from people who have walked the path you are on.

We all have family and friends, but that probably doesn't include all the people you want mentoring advice from...so what to do? I can say that the handful of incredible people that I consider my creativity mentors - all of them were strangers until I reached out. And all of them were gracious with their thoughts because the interaction is based on a topic we are all passionate about. These are great conversations! So see who is out there doing what you want to do and reach out. Be considerate of their time and be creative in how to use it.



I once joined a person on a 3 hour drive with my only purpose being the ride there and back. That's 6 hours of a mentor's time who normally can't give you 20 minutes in the office! So if you want to learn more about cooking, expand who you consider asking, and get in their kitchen!