

The power of self reliance and creativity, and the right to be free.
Reflections on the book *Ada & Zangemann*, by Matthias Kirschner and Sandra Brandstätter.



Kids are fertile soil. At an early age, the options of becoming a certain type of individual when you grow up are endless. As a young adult, those options begin to narrow down, so that by the time of graduating and attending to the university arrives, many things are already defined. If all kids are taught or encouraged to find new things to do and learn, and they are also reminded of their capabilities and the ones they can acquire, they can become many things by the time they start higher education. they can be individuals that, not only are fully self reliant, but also can help others become so.

Children are the greatest tinkerers, as they like to play, create, destroy and paint everything at hand. As a matter of fact, toys seem to bore them, but boxes or real objects call their attention way more. Is it because they dislike things that are limited to a single use? something pre-made that limits their imagination? whatever the case is, tinkering should be encouraged in people of all ages, educational and social backgrounds. Building things, experimenting, changing, repairing goods! A person has to invest a lot of time and money when their cellphone screen breaks, or when their computers have issues. Most repair shops make unthinkable profit margins out of the ignorance and fear from people. But, what if we could do most of it ourselves?

Adults should teach children not to simply be impressed at the ability of certain famous "inventors" to create cool things, but instead, they should make them understand how themselves could become great real inventors and, at the same time, get freedom and joy by doing so. Children should also learn the value and power of sharing ideas and knowledge to others, so that everyone can benefit and grow by learning how to be independent, free, and fearless, instead of being subjected to the whims of a single "person" controlling the colors and flavors of all our snacks.

Software is one big example of how easily people can be controlled. Wouldn't everyone want to know at least some basics, when doing so brings with it saving time, money, and having peace of mind? Making software is not an easy task, as most useful things in life require lots of effort, time and dedication. However, either learning how to make changes to your programs, or having access to obtain useful software with open code should be a right that everybody demands. The cost of ignorance is very high: not knowing about things can make you dependent and limited, which opens the door for anyone to make wonderful profits out of you.

So kids don't necessarily need a room of their own, but at home, they should have space for a glorious workshop corner where they can play with their creativity and inventiveness since an early age. If children learn to be active tinkerers instead of passive consumers, by the time children get to go to the university and get a job, they will be self-reliant individuals with the power to change the world around them, and will have the ability to seek and promote well being for the world and for people around them.

Let's fight for software and for all other types of freedom!