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What Families Can Do Now to Protect the Future of the Next Generation

Introduction: A Parent's Action Today Can Shape a Child's Next Ten Years

As we head toward 2030, Japan is entering a period of major upheaval: the spread of AI, population decline, rising prices, and drastic changes in the way we work. These are not abstract issues—they will directly impact the lives of the younger generation (ages 10–30) in terms of employment, housing, household finances, and relationships. In employment especially, the impact is already being felt.

The role of the parent generation is to lay the groundwork for action. The family, and the society surrounding children, serve as the fuse that ignites the power to survive change. Please also take a look at the proposals aimed at young people.

What Is Likely to Happen by 2030

- **The nature of work will change:** With AI and automation, even white-collar jobs will be replaced, and *hybrid skills that combine human & hands-on & IT* will be more highly valued. I graduated from university or I have a certificate will no longer be strong advantages. It will be essential to keep track of jobs being replaced by AI or robots.
 - **Regional disparities will widen:** Shortages of workers in rural areas and increases in vacant homes, while cities become more expensive. The ability to design a lifestyle that moves between urban and rural areas will be a strength.
 - **Social security will become unstable:** The younger the generation, the greater the uncertainty in the real value of pensions and savings. Values beyond money—skills, collaboration, trust—will matter more.
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Five Preparations Parents Can Start Today

1. **Redirect learning**
From degrees and certificates = security toward hands-on ability: to build, repair, design, and connect with IT. Employment opportunities for people with qualifications but no experience will shrink. Avoid university for the sake of it. Instead, engage in crafts and IT, and gain experience planning and executing projects.
 2. **Prepare for flexible housing**
Explore utilizing vacant houses or family homes, and consider creating a second base together as parent and child.
 3. **Shift household spending toward learning assets**
Invest not only in exams and certificates but also in tools, equipment, software, and small-scale
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start-up costs. Prioritize repair and upgrades over replacement, fostering both practical skills and savings.

4. **Connect networks with real-world sites**

Transform the parents's networks (local businesses, artisans, industry veterans) into learning opportunities for children. Provide exposure to real demand through visits and hands-on help at professional sites.

5. **Run a family project**

Examples: simple renovations of a vacant house, making things with local materials, 3D-printed parts, refurbishing and selling PCs, developing local convenience services, or solo software development. Such projects nurture entrepreneurial mindset and confidence.

A One-Year Plan to Move Forward with Your Child

- **Develop hybrid skills (dual-track)**

At minimum, pair IT (AI, CAD, data processing) with hands-on technical skills (wood/metal work, construction, repair).

- **Advance concrete dual-based learning and work** that span both city and countryside.

Guiding Career Choices: Three Perspectives

1. **Direct demand connection:** Whose inconvenience are you solving? (The closer to local, hands-on issues, the stronger.)
2. **Reproducibility:** Can it be repeated a second and third time with the same procedure? (Standardization, manuals, tools.)
3. **Expandability:** How much can IT or AI multiply the results? (Through automation, efficiency, and communication.)

Utilizing ZIKUU

The ZIKUU Makerspace is a place to acquire skills by working with your hands, while combining them with IT and AI to cultivate the power to live. If not ZIKUU, then use a similar facility. Join together as parent and child to advance:

- Development of dual-skill talent (IT & hands-on)
- Support for small-scale start-ups and sales
- Use of regional resources (local timber, vacant houses, repair)
- Creation of cross-generational collaborative teams

There you will find the people, sites, tools, and opportunities that are difficult to create within the household alone.

A Checklist Families Can Use

- Set fixed times for hands-on IT practice
- Choose one family project and assign roles
- Connect with at least three adults locally for site visits or consultations
- Try at least one repair/refurbishment (appliance, PC, furniture, etc.)
- Sell or present one finished product (to check real-world response)
- Test dual-base learning (urban/rural), even short-term

Message to Parents: Don't Stop at Entrance Exams

Over the next decade, what will support your child's life is not the ability to guess the right answer but the *ability to create and deliver*. The greatest support parents can provide is to create an environment that lowers the hurdles to challenge. Provide tools and time, connect them to real sites, and accompany them until they achieve small results. From there, children will learn to chart their own paths. If households, local communities, and educational/training facilities like ZIKUU work hand in hand, Japan in 2030 can still be designed to be bright and full of opportunity.

Source

This article is a restructured proposal for parents, based on [What Young People Should Know About the 2030 Problem](#) (published August 14, 2025).

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Date Created

2025-08-20

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