



Podcast Episode 157  
Unedited Transcript  
[Listen here](#)

## “How Do You Help Kids Find the Right Career Path?”

**David Loy:** You're listening to *In the Loop* with Andy Andrews, I'm your host David Loy. And Andy I am sitting here, looking at your, the cup of water you're drinking out of, and Phil Robertson staring at me.

**Andy Andrews:** He is, I'm looking at the happy, happy, happy side.

**David:** There you go. So that's funny actually. I was reading this morning, this sounds a little bit egotistical, I certainly don't mean it that way, but I was doing *The Traveler's Gift* journal this morning. And I'm writing decision number five, I will choose to be happy. And I'm wondering if we should do a reprint of that in the future.

**Andy:** Yes, the dynasty Traveler's Gift. I choose to be happy, happy, happy.

**David:** Exactly. We should make cups or t-shirts or something.

**Andy:** Today I will choose to be happy, happy, happy.

**David:** That's great.

**Andy:** Sure are to make one and send it to him

**David:** Yeah, we should. That'll be funny. Hey I saw one other thing, I know we talk a lot about what you do on social media here, so if anyone's listening that's

not friends with you on Facebook, go to Facebook, facebook.com/andyandrews, Andy will, as you famously say,

**Andy:** You find me, I will be your friend.

**David:** But you did something a couple of weeks ago, this whole ALS ice bucket challenge has become huge and you jumped in. It's been several weeks now, but you jumped in a while back and participated.

**Andy:** Yeah, Matt Wilson, a buddy of mine in Orange Beach challenged me and so we did that. And then I challenged Anthony from Sugar Cane Jane, and challenged Sandy Stimpson, the mayor of Mobile. And also Mark Lowry.

**David:** Oh yeah. I'm sure Mark was thrilled.

**Andy:** That, Mark, man, I mean, they all were great but Mark, if you haven't seen Mark's response to the challenge, you really need to go on my Facebook account and see it. Because God, Mark is a crazy person.

**David:** He is absolutely. Well he might say the same about you.

**Andy:** Yeah, but I have more proof that he is crazy. Mark's one of my buddies and he is just awesome. But that was very funny. You know, that was Tory Taff behind him that poured the water on him.

**David:** Oh I didn't notice that.

**Andy:** That's Russ Taff's like 18 Emmy's or something like 18 Grammys, yeah 18 Grammys. But that was Tory that poured the water. I love how she poured it, just

a little bit, just a little bit, and just killed him. I'm so glad I didn't get that that way.

**David:** So make sure you go on Facebook, check that out. And it just shows, we never know what Andy's gonna do, it's always fun and entertaining.

**Andy:** I don't ever know what I'm gonna do.

**David:** Andy we've got another fantastic question from a listener this week. And this was an email, so let me read this to you and then we'll jump in to her question at the end.

**Andy:** Ok.

**David:** Andy my husband and I love listening to your podcast and to some of your parenting videos. We have two boys who are very different from one another. Our 16-year-old is naturally gifted as a communicator. He's funny and he likes to perform for friends and family. As he gets older, these gifts are coming out more and we found ourselves encouraging him to tell his latest jokes. Our oldest son is almost 20, he's almost, excuse me, he's also very smart and gifted.

**Andy:** You started to say, he's almost smart.

**David:** Right, sorry about that. He is also very smart and gifted. But his gifts are quieter. He's more apt to listen rather than speak. He also hasn't found a main interest or career path yet. His passions and gifts are not as obvious but we have no doubt he is just as gifted. It's just taking time for him to discover that himself. Andy what would your advice be for us as parents in encouraging both of our sons? What suggestions do you have for encouraging a young man like our oldest

who is still looking for a career path? And from a speaker/comedian perspective, what would your advice be in encouraging our youngest son in that direction?

And that comes from Tiffany. So Tiffany thank you so much for sending that. Andy that's a long question but this, in reading it, it made me think, before you answer this. When you were growing up, did you have any special gifts or giftings and talents? As you're thinking back on your childhood?

**Andy:** Well, they definitely called me special, growing up. But let's see, you know, people thought growing up that I could sing. But that's just really because my dad was a musician. My dad and mom were both music majors and so I can carry a tune, alright. And I mean, I can sing but I can sing like everybody in your choir can sing. And so that's not really, that wasn't really like, anything unusual I suppose. Let's see, I have the gift of, my wife says, Polly says, that I have been gifted or cursed, depending on your take on it, to remember everything I've ever seen or heard. Because I can remember just minutia, I can remember the songs, just, it all comes to me pretty easily. And I guess, the noticing thing, is a gift.

**David:** Yes, that's definitely a gift.

**Andy:** I do, I do have one odd, a very odd gift that I still display on occasion. Because it's so weird and nobody, I don't think, people haven't really kind of seen this. And so, but Kevin Perkins and I used to win money from people, by doing this.

**David:** And Kevin's one of your longest, standing friends.

**Andy:** Yeah, longest, we've been best friends since high school. And Kevin would get somebody, he would say, for a dollar, I will have Andy close his eyes and he

can repeat almost immediately whatever is said on the radio. And I don't know why, I don't know how I can do that, but like, I can close my eyes and somebody says something and I'll do that to amuse the boys sometimes. We'll have somebody talking real loud, near us on airplane, or talking real loud somewhere. And I can say what they say with kind of the inflections and everything, like right behind them. And just kind of

**David:** Yeah, I'm sure the boys love that.

**Andy:** Oh they do. And Kevin loved it. And my friends in high school got a real kick out of it because I could go right behind, you want to do it, I'll do it? I'll do it with you.

**David:** Ok, I'd love to hear it.

**Andy:** I want to do it almost every time you start The In the Loop with Andy Andrews. I think about doing it. But I know you and I know that if I do that, you're going to, you will screw up because you'll be trying to listen to me so you'll stop.

**David:** I will.

**Andy:** So grab some, I'll tell you what. Why don't you read that, a part of that question again?

**David:** Ok.

**Andy:** Alright, I'm going to close my eyes and I'm not going to even look at you, but just go for it.

**David:** Ok, I'll just start reading the question.

**David and Andy:** What would your advice be for us as parents, in encouraging both of us sons? What suggestion do you have for encouraging our oldest who is still looking for a career path. And from a speaker/comedian perspective, what would your advice be in encouraging our youngest son in that direction?

**Andy:** I don't know why I can do that.

**David:** That is tough. That's tough for me to keep reading while you're doing that.

**Andy:** Isn't that weird?

**David:** That's fantastic.

**Andy:** And all I can say, you know how my teachers used to say, your mouth just runs by itself. And I suppose it does. Because I can just like shut my brain off and it goes from my ear right to my mouth.

**David:** You're on autopilot, there's no obstacles or anything to stop your thoughts.

**Andy:** You know, in a serious thing, I guess I have felt sometimes on stage, I have felt like that holy spirit thing, like I was amazed at some stuff that was coming out of my mouth. You know?

**David:** Yeah.

**Andy:** And so, I don't know, isn't that odd?

**David:** That is very odd.

**Andy:** I didn't mean to get off on that. So let's answer her question. Tiffany thanks, that is a great question.

**David:** And she's got two sons, you've got two, there's a lot of parallels here.

**Andy:** Right, there's a part where she said, both of them are so, they're not alike or something like that.

**David:** Right, very different from one another.

**Andy:** Yeah, and I'm like, uh, that's the oldest story in the book, isn't it? Because so many parents like, gosh, same parents, we raise them the same way, and they're just so totally different. Well that's Austin and Adam, they're that way too. Because Adam is this kind of little crazy person, you know. And Austin is like her older, her older son. You know, Austin is much more thoughtful. I say thoughtfully, I don't mean polite, I mean, he thinks, he can just see.

**David:** Analytical.

**Andy:** Yeah. that's it, that's a good word. He's much more analytical. And one of the things I always remember that Jones told me about Polly and me, which really Tiffany has to do with your sons too. But Jones, and I was so concerned about Polly and me being so different from each other, and he said, hey, if you were both just alike, one of you would be unnecessary. And so this is true in a family, is true of brothers. If I were you, I would really be directing those brothers toward the thoughts of being brothers. And how unusual and great that is, that you are brothers. And long after mom and dad are gone, you will have each other, you will

always be there. And so that you are different is a good thing. You know, that you can fill the empty spaces that the other one has. Now, let me just tell you something. You know, our oldest son is almost 20, that's what she said, our oldest son is almost 20. And she is concerned that he doesn't seem to have found a main interest or a career path. Tiffany, take a breath, ok. Because I'm just telling you, I mean, when I was 20, I was living under a pier, ok. So this kid is doing great. He's fine.

You know, I really think that to a large degree, we do a lot of young adults, a real disservice by really making them feel pressure to choose a career or to choose. You know, I'm not saying that they shouldn't be working, that they shouldn't be working and trying something or going toward something or learning something. But you know, I mean, I thought I was going to be a veterinarian. Then for 10 or 12 years, I thought I was supposed to be a comedian. Then for another 10 years I thought I was supposed to be a businessperson. And then for another 10, you know what I'm saying? So who knows, you could probably say about me, Andy has not really identified a main interest or a career path yet. And I'm just saying, as long as he is not discouraged or depressed about this, and he certainly shouldn't be, what I would say, if you said, Andy, I need you to tell him something, he's gotta get to work, he's gotta get going. Here's what I would say, if he is totally at odds with himself about what to do. I would say, ok, what is it that you just love? I mean, if money were no object in your life, and this comes straight out of *The Noticer Returns*, Jones was teaching people how to create a business of their own.

**David:** Yes.

**Andy:** And so many people say, oh, I can't get a job, I don't know what to do. Well, create your own business.



**David:** Right.

**Andy:** You'll make more money anyway, probably. And so, what is it that if money were no object, what would you get up and do every day? What do you just love? And so when you identify that, the next question you have to answer is what value does that have for other people? I'm not saying, what can you get a job, can you get a job doing it? I'm not saying that. I'm saying what value does it have for other people, ok. And then the third thing is a little harder but once you do this, man you're in there. And that is, when you figure out what value your passion has for other people, prove it. Because when you prove it, you'll never be without money, you'll never be without work. You will be fulfilled you'll be happy you'll be excited. You just can't wait to get going again, because it's your passion. You would be doing it if money were no object. And now, people are lining up for your services because what you're doing is so valuable. You have figured out how to create, how to create so much value for other people. And so there's the older one. Now for the younger one,

**David:** Which sound a lot like you, potentially.

**Andy:** Yeah, I know, I know, I'm so sorry Tiffany. But for the speaker/comedian thing, I want, if he's gonna be a comedian, a couple of things I would say, is I would say, be clean, be clean as a comedian. And I'm not saying that out of any kind of religious thing or anything like that, even though that could be a part of what you do. But I am saying it for an influence point of view in our society. And here's a little more incentive to be clean, you'll make more money. Make a lot more money being clean. Because there's some, there's a group of people, there's a percentage of people, they don't like the dirty comedy. And so if you can be funny without it, wouldn't you rather have a 100% than 70 %, of the people?

**David:** Exactly.

**Andy:** And so you'll make more money. So be clean, another thing is, do the comedy where ever you can and don't necessarily go to comedy clubs. Because comedy clubs, I believe create an unreal atmosphere. I see a lot of people who, you know, they're supposedly headliners in comedy clubs, well then they get them at a convention, and

**David:** Totally different field.

**Andy:** Yeah. I mean, comedy club, you go to comedy club, they're telling you where to sit, telling you how to act, and telling you, you know, and you're coming there to laugh. Well in the real world, which a convention is a real world. Not only do conventions pay a lot more than comedy clubs but conventions are the real world. These are people from all walks of life. And I got to tell you, in all walks of life, there's a lot of people don't think they like comedians at all anyway. And so, if you have totally bought yourself up on a diet of comedy clubs, when you go to a convention, it's going to throw you like a mean horse. And you're gonna be, and it's just going to totally disable you on stage. And so, I look at what, because I started doing the comedy thing before there was ever any comedy clubs and I was going in places and the band was letting me go between their sets. You know, or I'd go, and it was a Rotary club, and you know.

**David:** There's options out there, for sure.

**Andy:** Yeah. And so just, don't worry about being paid. You'd get good enough and in enough demand, that will core organically, right now, you just need to do it.

**David:** And what did one of your teachers, I forget, if it was Mrs. McLoyd or someone else, but this might be a good piece of advice for her younger son. She said something to the extent, she pulled you up at the hall and said, I might me saying it wrong but basically pick your spots.

**Andy:** Yeah, pick your spots. Yeah, that was Mrs. McLoyd.

**David:** Ok.

**Andy:** Yeah. I had said some smart-alecky thing in the class and then made everybody laugh. And she said, out. Scared me to death man. Out of my class.

**David:** And what grade was this?

**Andy:** 8th grade. And scared me to death because I loved her. And I was just horrified. And she follows me out in the hall and she turns to me and she says, ok, you're funny, ok. Just letting you know you're funny. I think you're funny, everybody thinks you're funny. You crack me up. But you have to let me have the class sometimes. So you got to pick your spots. You would be a lot funnier if you pick your spots. You can write a little bit, you're very funny, so learn how to write funny. And when you learn how to write funny, you'll learn how to be technically funny, and it'll help you pick your spots. And so, I would tell her younger son, read a lot and write.

**David:** Learn how to write funny.

**Andy:** Learn how to write funny.

**David:** And to pick your spots as you know. As Mrs. McLoyd pointed out to you, in school, teachers are going to want, they don't want the class clown but they might appreciate a funny kid that knows timing and is able to pick their spots.

**Andy:** Yeah, that's right. And so just understand that you want to write, you want to learn how to write comedy, you wanna learn how to be consistent, because the oldest story in the book is somebody's cousin who is so funny and he should be a comedian. Well let me just tell you something. It's one thing to be funny for your family and friends and it's a whole another thing to be funny on Thursday night at 8 o'clock, with a headache, when you just got off the phone, had an argument with your wife and you're going in front of a thousand washing machine repair man. Ok. dude, now be funny.

**David:** Exactly, pressure's on.

**Andy:** Yeah. and so just learn what funny is and get some experience with it.

**David:** That's great.

**Andy:** And let me close this out with this. I want him to know, there's a big difference in the class clown and the class wit. I was the class wit.

**David:** Ok.

**Andy:** You know, people assume that I was a class clown. I was not, the class clown is the guy who runs naked across the football field in freezing weather.

**David:** Ok, that wasn't me.

**Andy:** I was the one who talked him into doing it.

**David:** Big difference. That's fantastic. Tiffany that's a fantastic question, thank you so much for sending that to us. Andy thanks for sharing your thoughts. If you have a question for Andy, send us an email [intheloop@andyandrews.com](mailto:intheloop@andyandrews.com). Call and leave us a voicemail, 1800 726 2639, tell us your name and where you're calling from, and leave us your question. And we'll look forward to hearing from you on a future episode. Andy thanks so much for your time today.

**Andy:** Thank you buddy.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Would you like to run something by Andy? Contact us and your question might be featured on the show!**

- Phone: 1-800-726-ANDY
- Email: [InTheLoop@AndyAndrews.com](mailto:InTheLoop@AndyAndrews.com)
- [Facebook.com/AndyAndrews](https://www.facebook.com/AndyAndrews)
- [Twitter.com/AndyAndrews](https://twitter.com/AndyAndrews)