

# GROWING A BUSINESS AROUND MANAGING YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

**DENISE HUTTON-GOSNEY**  
*Razzamataz*



**Denise Hutton-Gosney launched Razzamataz Theatre Schools in 2000, franchising it six years later, in 2006. However, life has not always been straightforward, for this working mum.**

When you're a parent, and trying to manage serious health conditions within your family, you might think this prohibits you from running a business. However, for working mum, and franchisor, Denise Hutton-Gosney, is a role model for overcoming the challenges this can present. Exciting things are happening within her franchise, as the brand continues to grow from strength-to-strength. The network of Theatre Schools are teaching children of all ages various performing arts, which has the benefit of increasing their confidence, too.

Every year, Razzamataz hosts their annual Conference and Awards Ceremony for the network of Franchise Partners. It was in 2017, during the annual Conference, when Denise received life-changing news about her youngest son, Lewis, who was just two years old at the time. "Lewis was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes," Denise explains. "Diabetes is a serious condition affecting the blood sugar levels. With Type-1, the body's immune system attacks and destroys the cells that produce insulin, so it's potentially life-threatening. We've had to develop a very complicated care plan, in order to give him the best life which can, at times, be difficult to manage."

So, although Razzamataz is growing, Denise and her husband have needed to adapt, in order to become official carers for their son, not just his parents. However, as a family, they are making excellent progress. "Diabetes is not easy to live with, as it requires round-the-clock monitoring, as well as regular insulin injections to help Lewis' body control his blood sugar levels."

Despite this, Razzamataz Theatre Schools continues to expand, and has become multi-award winning, thanks to the excellent support systems which Denise and her team embedded into the business. And the backing of one of the Dragons, Duncan Bannatyne, after Denise appeared on the Den in 2007.

"If I was in a traditional 9-5 job, there would be no way I could continue with my career," explains Denise. "Being in franchising, I have a brilliant team around me at Head Office, who help me provide our franchisees, and the business, with all the support they need. The Razzamataz ethos lies in recognising the responsibilities we all have outside work, and so we ensure we put people first. This means flexible working, creating a kind and inclusive environment, and offering one-to-one support, so each person can reach their full potential."