At a California skate park, Sky Brown zips back and forth on her board. Suddenly, she launches herself into the air from the top of a ramp. She clutches her skateboard under her feet with one hand and spins around. Then she lands back on the ramp.

Sound tough? The trick is one of the hardest stunts in skateboarding. Sky makes it look easy. She's only 11, but she's already a top professional skater. And she has big dreams for her future.

Board Baby
Sky was born in Japan. She began

What's Your Game Plan?

1 TRY NEW THINGS. You just might find an activity you love as much as Sky loves skating.

2 DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT OTHERS THINK. In Japan, few girls skateboarded. Sky got funny looks. But she kept skating!

3 DON'T BE AFRAID TO FAIL! “There's always a chance I will fall,” says Sky. “But I don't let fear stop me.”
amazing story and her dreams for the future.

skating when she was 2. She didn’t have to go far. Her family had a skating ramp in the yard.

“My dad was always skating, and I wanted to get on a board just like him!” Sky says.

“I’m sure I fell a lot in the beginning.”

Sky had a lot of talent. She began skating in competitions at age 7. Last summer, she won a top prize at a skateboarding world championship.

For the Fun of It

Sky now lives in California. She trains every day. She watches YouTube videos to learn new tricks. Then she practices them at skate parks. But to her, practicing is more like playing.

“At the end of the day, I just want to have fun,” she says.

Sky’s schedule is flexible. She usually goes to school two days a week. She studies online the other days. She makes time to see friends and play video games with her brother.

Sky also squeezes in her other favorite sport—surfing. She often gets up at 5 a.m. to ride the waves. She says that balancing on a surfboard makes her a better skater.

Olympic Dreams

Lately, Sky has been preparing for a major event—the Olympics. The 2020 Summer Games were scheduled to kick off in Tokyo, Japan, this July. Skateboarding was on the list of events for the first time. Sky was planning to compete for Great Britain’s team. (Because Sky’s dad is from Great Britain and her mom is from Japan, she’s a citizen of both countries. She could compete for either one.) But in March, officials postponed the Games until 2021. The disease known as Covid-19 made it risky to have big crowds gather.

Sky is disappointed. But she plans to keep practicing and improving her skills. And she encourages other kids to reach for their own goals.

“The sky’s the limit,” she says. “Chase your dreams!”

—by Karen Kellaher