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Behind the Arches ... A sneak peek into the training grounds of MacDonald's Franchisees: Hamburger University... Basic Training

Before buying a franchise, make sure that it has a quality training program. After all, if you're expected to learn the language, you'd better have capable instructors.

Bob Garrow, professional speaker, leadership trainer and author of *Ahoy Mates! Leadership Lessons from Successful Pirates*, knows what it takes to get people started on the right foot. Based on his suggestions, we've culled five rules to live by when looking at a franchise training program:

1. Do what you can to make sure the training program content is relevant to what franchise owners experience in their natural environments.
2. You may hate exams and testing, but you'd better make darn sure that the franchise training program requires some sort of test, because you'll hate being a clueless business owner much more than that test.
3. The program should be fun.
4. Two words: interactive learning.
5. The agenda should contain a variety of learning methods and changes of pace so it holds people's attention.