Carter West was abandoned as a child the age of ten. His father, Shawn was reportedly killed while his mother, Kim was just 3 months pregnant with Carter. Kim turned to drugs shortly after the news of the tragic death of her boyfriend and it was a surprise that Shawn was born a healthy baby. Her addiction grew after she gave birth and Carter was often neglected.

Carter's early years were rough as he attended public school in Brooklyn and was constantly surrounded by the wrong people, weapons and drug paraphernalia. He hung around with a group were all about 6 years older than him and at the age of thirteen was introduced to cocaine. His mother was always with some men who brought more drugs to her, only continuing her problem. Kim gave birth to two other boys, Jason and Damon. Young Carter didn't want his brother's to have the same childhood as he did and was still going through so he decided he would be their father figure, since their real father wasn't man enough to still be there. Carter began staying out all night and skipping school so he could sell cocaine and make some money to support his brothers. Although his actions were wrong he was doing it for the right reasons and was a very responsible 13 year-old.