

# The Special Bond

There is a special bond between grandparents and their grandchildren. In this activity, we look at words of wisdom, and a few funny stories, about grandparents.

## Props and Preps

- Print a copy of the complete activity for the facilitator to present.
- Print [large-print copies of Grandparents: Words of Wisdom](#) for participants to take turns reading aloud.
- Ask participants to bring photos of their grandparents and/or grandchildren or other children that are special to them.

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## The Special Bond

### Grandparents' Wit and Wisdom

Here are a few thoughts from famous (and not-so-famous) people about grandparents:

“Nobody can do for little children what grandparents do. Grandparents sort of sprinkle stardust over the lives of little children.” — *Alex Haley*

“Everyone needs to have access both to grandparents and grandchildren in order to be a full human being.” — *Margaret Mead*

“A child needs a grandparent, anybody’s grandparent, to grow a little more securely into an unfamiliar world.” — *Charles and Ann Morse*

“Have children while your parents are still young enough to take care of them.” — *Rita Rudner*

“Sometimes our grandmas and grandpas are like grand-angels.”  
— *Lexie Saige*

“Grandchildren are God’s way of compensating us for growing old.” — *Mary H. Waldrip*

“A mother becomes a true grandmother the day she stops noticing the terrible things her children do because she is so enchanted with the wonderful things her grandchildren do.”  
— *Lois Wyse*

“What children need most are the essentials that grandparents provide in abundance. They give unconditional love, kindness, patience, humor, comfort, lessons in life. And, most importantly, cookies.” — *Rudolph Giuliani*

“If nothing is going well, call your grandmother.” — *Italian Proverb*

“Grandma always made you feel she had been waiting to see just you all day and now the day was complete.” — *Marcy Demaree*

“If God had intended us to follow recipes, He wouldn’t have given us grandmothers.”  
— *Linda Henley*



“When grandparents enter the door, discipline flies out the window.” — *Ogden Nash*

“If your baby is ‘beautiful and perfect, never cries or fusses, sleeps on schedule and burps on demand, an angel all the time,’ you’re the grandma.” — *Teresa Bloomingdale*

“Surely, two of the most satisfying experiences in life must be those of being a grandchild or a grandparent.” — *Donald A. Norber*

“Grandparents are there to help the child get into mischief they haven’t thought of yet.”  
— *Unknown*

“My grandkids believe I’m the oldest thing in the world. And after two or three hours with them, I believe it, too.” — *Gene Perret*

“The best baby-sitters, of course, are the baby’s grandparents. You feel completely comfortable entrusting your baby to them for long periods, which is why most grandparents flee to Florida.” — *Dave Barry*

“One of the most powerful handclasps is that of a new grandbaby around the finger of a grandfather.” — *Joy Hargrove*

## **DISCUSSION**

1. Which of these quotes do you like best? Why?
2. Why do you think there is a special bond between grandparents and grandchildren?

## **Grandparent Stories**

### **Good Point!**

One evening a grandmother was babysitting her two granddaughters, Anne and Betty. Presently, 8:00 p.m. rolled around.

“Okay, time for bed,” she informed the two children, who were playing in the den.

“Why?” asked Anne, age 6. “It’s so early!”

“Your father said your bedtime is 8:00,” the grandmother said.

“You don’t have to listen to him,” Betty, age 4½, replied.

“Why not?” the grandmother asked.

Betty answered, “Because you’re his mother!”

### **Who Was That?**

After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. At last she threw a towel around her head, stormed into their room, and put them back to bed with stern warnings.

As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, “Who was THAT?”

## Figure It Out, Grandma

I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colors yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what color it was. She would tell me and was always correct. But it was fun for me, so I continued.

At last she headed for the door, saying sagely, "Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these yourself!"

## The Answer's in the Undies

When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure."

"Look in your underwear, Grandma," he advised. "Mine says I'm four to six."

## DISCUSSION

1. Did you know your grandparents? What do you remember about them?
2. Do you have stories to share about grandchildren and other special children in your life, and the funny things they say and do?

## THINGS GRANDPARENTS SAY

Grandparents are full of wisdom. Here are some sayings handed down by grandparents:

- A leopard never changes its spots.
- You don't get something for nothing.
- Don't leave until tomorrow what you can do today.
- Don't buy what you can't afford.
- Cleanliness is next to godliness.
- If you're going to do something, do it right.
- You can't control what others do, only your own reactions.
- Actions speak louder than words.
- Knowledge is never wasted.
- Never turn down a free meal.
- Pay yourself first.



## DISCUSSION

1. What are some sayings that have been handed down from generation to generation in your family?
2. What words of wisdom would you share with today's children?

## Additional Activities

1. Watch a movie! Here are several movies that have strong grandparent/grandchildren themes: *Whale Rider*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, *Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, *Cocoon*, *Hope and Glory*.
  2. [Watch people meeting their grandchildren for the first time](#). (Have tissues ready!)
  3. Watch a funny [Baby & Grandparents video](#).
  4. Watch [grandparents teach their grandchildren about old technology](#).
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# Grandparents: Words of Wisdom

## Grandparents' Wit and Wisdom

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