



Listening Time:



38:01

SEASON 3, EPISODE 5

Grandparent Relationships

Grandparents, or older friends and family members, can play pivotal roles in children's lives, acting as caregivers, mentors, and friends. They can offer unique guidance to their adult children turned parents, sometimes even stepping into the primary caregiver role for their grandchildren. Whether grandparents live in a child's neighborhood or far away, the love and emotional support they provide can significantly contribute to the healthy social and emotional growth of their grandchildren.

In this episode, Todd interviews his own 96-year-old grandmother, as well as his sister and niece about their family memories and relationships. He then chats with two other grandparent-grandkid duos: Brenda and her granddaughter Kailah, followed by Marvin and his granddaughter Melanie.

This episode is about grandparents — but it's not just for children who have grandparents! Many children also have meaningful relationships with older family members or friends.

These resources are intended to cultivate a shared understanding of grandparent relationships and how to cultivate those important intergenerational relationships.



Grand Love Letter

K-3rd Grade



Goals

- ♥ Use words and pictures to express ideas and feelings
- ♥ Build empathy by connecting across generations
- ♥ Build trusting relationships and open dialogue

Instructions



Play the Episode

If the class has not yet listened to the Little Kids, Big Hearts "Grandparent Relationships" episode, start by listening! It's wherever you listen to podcasts. Learn more (or listen) at playsparkler.org/podcast.

Materials



Get Ready! Here's what you'll need:

- ♥ Paper and crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- ♥ Stamps and envelopes, as well as grandparents' mailing addresses

Activity



Discuss the episode together.

- ♥ What do you love doing with your grandparents or older friends/family members?
- ♥ What have you learned from your grandparents?
- ♥ Is there anything you've taught your grandparents?



Each of us is going to write a letter or draw a picture for our grandparents, and then we'll write out their address on envelopes and put them in the mailbox to send them a surprise. Whether you live close or far away, it always feels good to get a note in the mail!

- ♥ Let's each draw/paint a portrait of ourselves with our grandparents.
- ♥ Now, if we want, let's write a short note on the picture or on the other side of the paper.
- ♥ Let's work together to write your grandparent's mailing address on the front of the envelope and stick a stamp in the upper right corner.
- ♥ It's time to drop our "grand love letters" in the mailbox!
- ♥ How do you think your grandparent will feel when they receive your picture and note?



Way Back When

K-3rd Grade



Goals

- ♥ Build curiosity by asking “I wonder” questions
- ♥ Learn about history
- ♥ Build imagination skills



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Materials



Get Ready! Here's what you'll need:

- ♥ White board or smart board
- ♥ Optional: Paper/crayons/markers

Activity



Let's play “Way Back When” together.

- ♥ You know what it's like to be a kid today. What do you think it was like being a kid when your grandparent(s) were kids?
- ♥ Let's ask “I wonder...” questions about life way back then. I'll write them on the board or on a piece of paper.
- ♥ Let's come up with our hypotheses as a class — what do we THINK the answers are to our “I wonder” questions?
- ♥ Now it's your turn to find out the answers! Let's do some research in the library and ask our grandparents (in a phone call or over the weekend) to learn about what life was really like back then.
- ♥ After we discover some answers, let's share.
- ♥ What surprised you about your grandparents' childhoods? What was the same then as it is today?