

# Asset-Building Ideas for Grandparents

- Support your children in their parenting. Tell them what you think they are doing well. Respect the way they do things (even if you'd do it differently).
- Talk with your children about the boundaries and expectations they have for your grandchildren. Work together to provide consistent boundaries. Let your grandchildren know why those things are important to you.
- Help make history come alive for your grandchildren. Tell them stories about yourself, their parents and members of your extended family.
- Help them think about their future by sharing the goals and dreams you had as a young person.
- **Create a safe space for them to ask questions and share concerns.** Let them know that you will listen to their ideas without judging them.
- **Model community involvement** – helping neighbors, volunteering, etc. Talk about your experiences and why you have decided to contribute to the community.
- **Model lifelong learning** by talking with your grandchildren about things you are learning through reading and experiencing new things.
- **Ask your grandchildren to teach you something they know well or enjoy doing.**
- Attend school and community events your grandchildren are involved in. **Let them know you are proud of their hard work and developing skills even if they don't win the game or the performance isn't perfect.**
- Avoid comparing your grandchildren to each other. Enjoy what is unique about each one. Spend one-on-one time with them, and let them know how special they are to you.
- If you don't get to spend much time with your grandchildren, **keep connected with them through phone calls and letters.**
- **Celebrate your culture and traditions together.**
- Have fun together!



Being a grandparent means different things to different people. Many children are being raised by their grandparents or spend lots of time with them. Other grandparents live in different states or countries than their grandchildren and rarely see them. Whether you see your grandchildren daily or just once in a while, YOU can be an important asset builder for your grandchildren.

Developmental assets are the positive relationships, opportunities, values and skills that young people need to grow up caring and responsible.

Grandparents can help their grandchildren experience assets such as family support, adult role models, self esteem and positive cultural identity.

See the full framework of 41 developmental assets at [www.projectcornerstone.org](http://www.projectcornerstone.org)

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