



ACTIVITIES AND IDEAS FOR SCHOOLS AND DAYCARE CENTRES

Our resources guide to help you plan activities for your classroom for New Zealand Grandparent's Day.

New Zealand Grandparent's Day is the official fundraising day for GrandFriends - a charity connecting families & surrogate grandparents throughout New Zealand.

Gold coin collections from New Zealand Grandparent's Day events and resource downloads (like this one) go directly to GrandFriends.

We thank you for your support!

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ACTIVITIES FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS

Butterfly Handprint

What You Need:

Paper; paper plates; paintbrushes; finger paint; paper towels; pencil crayons and/or markers.

Doing It:

This butterfly print is simple enough for young children to do, and can be made much more elaborate by adding decorations around it. Put red and yellow finger paint onto paper plates. Cover the palm and fingers of both hands with red paint. Place both hands near the top of a sheet of paper with the thumbs pointing up and parallel, about one inch apart. Keep your hands still and firm as you press on the paper. Wipe the paint off your hands.

Brush yellow paint onto the palms and fingers of both hands. Make handprints on the sheet in the opposite direction (just below the other hands), again with the thumbs parallel and about one inch apart. Let dry.

Paint the butterfly's body down the middle, complete with a little head and antennae.

Write:

For Grandma or Grandpa

A handful of love for you today,

That will never, ever fly away!

Lots of love, (child's name, date)

Use markers or pencil crayons to create a floral garden around the butterfly.

ACTIVITIES FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS

- Invite Grandparents/Seniors into your education centre to participate in storytime or arts & crafts activities.
- Print out a number of shield shaped templates and get the children to colour and design their own family crest.
- Arrange for seniors from a local rest home or retirement village to visit your centre on a regular basis.
- Take children to visit a rest home or retirement village.
- Get children involved in an art activity, ie painting or creating a card and deliver these to local rest homes or retirement villages. A Happy Grandparent's Day card is sure to put a smile on their faces!
- Involve seniors/grandparents in your centre's parties and other celebrations.
- Get children to paint rocks that can be given to Grandparents to keep in their gardens (the centre may need special paints/sealants to do this activity).
- Bake "Letter" cookies spelling Happy Grandparent's Day, or spelling out their Grandparents name, ie Grandad, Nana, Pop etc
- Make Bath bombs for Grandma, Seed bombs for Grandpa.
- Make favours for lunch trays and decorations for tables for Grandparents
- You tube Grandparents songs to play to the children in your centre, some examples here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCGPz-YMk2s>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_qUVEUZyTU
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-xz1scdRfY>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=47&v=7hpFWinSNEk
- Awesome Grandparent Award ceremony - certificates can be downloaded from our website.
- "Dress as your Granny/Grandpa" Day at daycare/school.



ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

Who you gonna call?

What we call people carries a meaning -- sometimes cultural, sometimes personal. Many grandparents today come up with very creative names for themselves. Often they tend to be a version of the word "grandma" or "grandpa" -- because some think these titles make them sound "old." Tracing back the origins of what people call their grandparents is interesting and fun. It also prepares children before Grandparent's Day for all the ways other children refer to their grandparents.

Start with an informal survey. Ask people in your school and in your neighbourhood (adults and children) what they call/called their grandmother and grandfather. Then research different languages and cultures at the library and/or on the Internet to learn as many names as possible for grandmothers and grandfathers.

After you've collected all the names, make a big chart and list each name with the family that uses it. Also identify the source of the name (i.e. cultural or made up by the family). If you were a grandparent, what name would you choose? Why?

Grandparent Stories

Sharing stories about grandparents is a way to help children understand the nature of the relationship and differences across families and cultures. One idea that works well is to have each child write a story about their grandparent before Grandparent's Day and then read the story on the Grandparent's Day. Or, have children draw a picture of their best memory or favorite activity with the grandparent, and then grandparents have to guess what it is.

Some topic ideas: Do you have grandparents, or other older people you like and know? What do you like about them? Where do they live? How often do you visit them? What kinds of things do you do together? Do you do things to help them? What do you like best about visiting them? Describe the best visit you ever had. What's the most fun thing you've ever done together?

Complete the sentences, "Grandparents are special because..."; "The best thing about my grandparents is..."; "My grandparents make me happy when..."; "My grandparents love to..."; What's the most important thing you've learned from your grandmother or grandfather?; What are two ways you show your grandparents that you love them?



ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

Grandparent History Interview

Ask each child to find out the year (or decade) that their grandparents were born and get them to research various things about this time.

Where were they born? In New Zealand or another Country?

Why were you given the first (and middle) name(s) that you have?

What's your first, most vivid memory?

What was the apartment or house like that you grew up in? How many bedrooms did it have? Bathrooms? What was your bedroom like?

What were you like as a child? What did you like to eat? What did you do for fun? What were your favorite toys or games? Did you ever have a secret place or a favorite hiding spot? What did you wear?

What responsibilities did you have at home when you were young?

What kind of school did you go to? Were you a good student? What was your favorite subject? Least favorite? Who were your friends? Who was your favorite teacher and why?

Did you have any heroes when you were a child?

Who was the leader of the country at the time?

What music was popular? Can they find some music to play to the class.

What games did they play at school?

What did they do for work when they left school?

What was the best gift you remember receiving as a child?

What big world events do you remember from the time you were growing up? What inventions do you most remember?

What's different about growing up today from when you were growing up?



ACTIVITIES FOR TEENAGERS

Grandparent History Interview

Cost comparison - examine changes in prices of basic consumers goods over a hundred year period, look at things like Bread, milk, postage, petrol, cars houses and what the average income was in comparison.

Family History Museum - participants collect objects, photos, newspaper clippings, family documents and other important mementos and set up a mini-museum to present to the class.

Family Photo Tree - find photos of family members across the generations and create a family photo tree (scan old photos and print so as not to destroy originals).

“Hot and Not” - a fun activity to do with your Grandparents. The young person fills in their “hot” list with the current coolest things. Under the “Not” they identify the worst, most embarrassing things. The older person does the same either according to their current views or thinking back to when they were the young persons age. Examples of things for the list could be Music, Movie, Dance, TV show, Actor/Actress, Clothing, Food, Ways to say hello, Ways to say something is great etc

My time/Your time web surfing. Choose a senior member of your family or community. List the following information for each participant: date of birth, most memorable historical events, most memorable personal events. Produce a timeline from the older persons date of birth through to today marking the most significant events along the way.

Stump your relative - family members and friends at least one generation apart try to “stump” each other by finding and sharing items that are likely to be unfamiliar to people of other generations. Present an explanation of each item to the group. See how many you can find!

Penpals - students exchange letters, emails, audio/videos with residents in a local rest home or retirement village.

Home Chore services - young participants can visit elderly neighbours or family and assist with maintenance type activities.

Arrange to visit seniors in assisted living or long term care facilities.

Invite your grandparents into your youth group/club for an afternoon and ask them to share something of interest.

If you don't have a Grandparent close by Adopt a [GrandFriend](#).