



## ACTIVITIES AND IDEAS FOR FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES

Our resources guide to help you plan activities for your family or community 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!

[www.newzealandgrandparentsday.org](http://www.newzealandgrandparentsday.org)

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## ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

**To following are a selection of activities you can have fun doing together as a family**

Bring out the board games! The more traditional the better - try Ludo, Draughts, or Clue and get everyone around the table to play.

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. See how many you can find, and make sure each one is demonstrated!

Time Capsule - gather together a number of small items from your grandparent's and parent's generation and today and make and bury a time capsule for the next generation to find.

Rock painting and hiding/finding. There are many facebook groups around New Zealand who actively paint and hide rocks around local areas for others to find and then re-hide. Join in the fun as a family!

Do a puzzle together. Take over the dining room table, and clock in a few hours of peaceful silence (or happy chatter) by putting together a jigsaw puzzle. You can dust off something you have on-hand, or grandpa and the kids can go out and choose something together.

Bake a Happy Grandparent's Day cake for your Grandies.

Plant memories—in a terrarium! With a simple glass bowl, soil, rocks, a few plants and (our favorite part) a few of those tiny plastic dinosaurs that inhabit every corner of your home, grandparents will love helping their grandkids create a tiny habitat for their most fearsome tiny friends.

Go for a walk. Even if there's no summer sun callin' your name, nature walks are fun during any season.

Have the kids put on some comfortable shoes and a hat, and they can hold grandma's hand while they explore a new trail or give her a tour of the neighborhood.

Crack open a book. A pile of picture books (or one riveting chapter book) and a comfy couch are the makings of a perfect day. Make a trip out of it by going to the library, or let the kids show off their personal collection and pick out books they think their grandparents will enjoy, too.

Adopt a surrogate grandparent or family through [www.grandfriends.nz](http://www.grandfriends.nz)

Dealer's choice. Your little card shark will love cleaning up at Go Fish, but she might also enjoy learning some other old school games. Grandparents can choose from their favorites: Spoons, Crazy Eights, War, and Rummy are all winners!

Unleash your inner artist for Grandparent's Day! Choose a simple medium such as crayons, watercolors, markers, color pencils, or fingerpaints, and create a portrait of your grandchildren while they draw one of you



Build a simple family website using a free web builder and store photos and memories on line - you can keep it private to your own family, or you could sign up to an app like kin2kin to share photos to family far away.

Create a "Life List" together and write down all the things you want to do in your life, cross them off as you complete them.

Photo copy or scan pictures of all the children's grandparents baby pictures and grandparents recent pictures. So you would have two sets of each grandparent. Label the grandparent baby picture "Then" and the grandparent current picture "Now". Do the same with the children's baby pictures and current pictures. Take copies and have them displayed on a poster board. See if the children can guess who's baby picture goes with the current picture. They can also see if the grandparents baby pictures resemble the grandchild's baby picture.

Parents - contact management at a local retirement home to see if your children could visit the homes. The children could play games, read or do arts and crafts making this a fun fieldtrip for both the youth and young at heart.

Kids Learn to cook the weekly roast with your grandparents and treat them all the following weekend with your new found skills.

Tea for two (or three or five). Raid grandma's closet, break out the China (or the paper plates), and cut sandwiches into triangles—voilà! Grandparents will love being served a cuppa and will likely appreciate the opportunity to reinforce gracious table manners.

Try Geo-caching...<https://www.geocaching.com/play>.

Getting to know you game ask your grandparents questions about their life.

Start a new family tradition.

Research and compile your family tree.





## ACTIVITIES FOR COMMUNITIES

Libraries, community centres and other public venues could put up a display depicting everything to do with grandparents and our senior community.

Offer a 'Create your family tree" workshop in your community centre.

Invite members of the senior community in to offer readings to youngsters.

Offer your community space to seniors to run craft events to teach kids how to sew, crochet or knit.

Own a cafe or eatery? Put on a special "Grandparent's Day" menu and encourage families to bring in their grandparents for a meal. Perhaps seniors could get a free dessert or glass of wine?

DIY store? Offer some classes for grandparents to bring their grandchildren in to learn essential skills.

Retirement Villages could organise family days and invite resident's grandchildren in for an afternoon of fun activities.

Schools and daycares could have a day where grandparents are invited in to participate in fun activities and a special assembly.

Girls guides/Scout groups could invite their grandparents in to their sessions to show them all they have learnt and to learn some new skills or wisdom from their grandparents.

Dance/Gymnastics or other sports clubs could do a special performance for grandparents.

RSA's could run a kid friendly bingo game and invite their grandchildren in for a fun after school activity.

Bowling or other sports clubs could do a "teach the grandchildren" session or two.

Community gardens/garden centres - invite the kids in to learn from the adults about how to plant and manage a garden. Make it a regular thing - grandparents & kids club perhaps?

Youth clubs - run regular information/learning sessions run by grandparents or senior members of the community.