

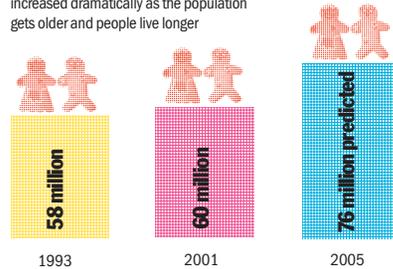
Life's gifts

Of the most important ethics or values that grandparents would like to pass on to their grandchildren:
 42% said morals and integrity
 21% said success or ambition
 20% mentioned religion
 14% said consideration
 10% said to be reasonable



60 million grandparents

The number of grandparents in the US has increased dramatically as the population gets older and people live longer



Source: American Demographics; AARP

Sweet little ones

A typical grandparent in the US has five grandchildren



29% of those interviewed say they pass on stories about the old days

Elder
Showing how to age with dignity

30% of grandparents earn at least \$50,000 a year

Mentor
Fostering the child's ambition

Nurturer
Being closely involved in their life and providing help when needed

35% of those interviewed say they often give their grandchild advice

Role Model
Imparting a strong work ethic

Friend
An imaginative counterpoint to a child's day

49% of grandparents interviewed describe themselves as a friend to their grandchild

Counselor
A wealth of family wisdom

Confidant
Someone to trust and talk to

33% of those interviewed say they tell their grandchildren the family history

Playmate
Fun-seeking and informal

Teacher
An example of good manners and morals

Roles of grandparents

What roles might my parents play in my child's life?

There are many different roles your parents might play.

An effective grandparent might be altruistic, nurturing and put the needs of family members ahead of their own. They may be full of vitality, bring a sense of wonder to their grandchild's life, be warm, be easy to talk to, or be patient and careful listeners. If they value a close family, they will make an effort to make themselves available and be a support to their children and grandchildren.

Source: AARP, Arthur Kornhaber, MD.

ACTION ITEMS

What role will your parents play?

Parents and grandparents should talk about the role the grandparents will play. And, while it is important for the grandparents to respect the parent's wishes, parents need to allow the grandparents to create their own identity. The two most important gifts they can give are love and time. How they do it is their decision.

? What are the different roles your parents play when interacting with your child?

- Companion/friend
- Advisor
- Teacher
- Family historian
- Confidant
- Playmate
- Nurturer
- Travel companion

? What values or ethics would you like your parents to pass on to your children?

- High morals and integrity
- Success or ambition
- Religion
- Consideration of others
- Family importance

? How often do your kids see their grandparents?

- Child care on an everyday or regular basis
- Babysitting on occasion
- Live in the same household as grandchildren
- See grandparents every week
- See grandparents at least once a month
- Both see and speak by phone to each week
- Have little contact

? What gifts do your kids get from your parents?

- Clothes
- Books
- Toys and other play items
- Financial investments