

## HANDOUT CONTENTS

### TIPS AND TOOLS

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2. Set a time
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5. Storage suggestions for you
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8. Signature is important
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## TOPICS – IT'S AS EASY AS 1 – 2 – 3!

Remember, **KEEP THE LETTER SHORT!**

1. **Talk a little about you**, items 1-67
2. **Focus mostly on the child**, items 68-213
3. **Add inside the envelope some little something extra!**
  - a. a **Paper activity**, items 214-264
  - b. **OR - an Easy little gift**, items 265-289
  - c. **OR - a Small Gift that takes a little more effort**, items 290-324

### LETTER-TRACKING FORM

1. Make up your own way to keep track, or
2. Use our form.
  - a. Directions for using it under #4, of TIPS AND TOOLS.

### 101 Ways to Praise a Child

1. Keep it by your phone and letter-writing materials
2. Use it often

### SUMMARY

1. A little page about why letter-writing is effective.

### BOOKS

1. Books in our display
2. Other books about grandparenting

# TIPS AND TOOLS FOR LETTER WRITING



If you live miles away from your grandchildren,  
don't give up on keeping them close to your heart  
and you close to theirs.  
You need to find ways to stay in touch  
in spite of the distance.

Writing short letters does more than you would think  
to keep that connection!

## 1. DON'T FORGET TO PRAY FOR INSPIRATION!!!

- Your grandchild belongs to Heavenly Father.... He knows the child better than anyone. He may wish to use you as an instrument in His hands, to help fill your loved-one's life with sunshine.

## 2. SET A TIME

Write once a week or month, depending on how many grandchildren you have and how often you want to contact them.

- Remember, if they lived in your town, you would be babysitting frequently – Honor your set time as if it were a babysitting appointment for your grandchild.

## 3. SET AN "ORDER OF WRITING" SCHEDULE

If you have several grandchildren, you can avoid the appearance of showing favoritism by choosing (out of a hat?) names in random order to receive the first letters. Or just start with the youngest!

- Write down the order you have chosen; then keep that same rotating schedule.

## 4. RECORD KEEPING:

- Find an easy way to **keep track** of which child you wrote to; the date, the subject, and insert. Keep it with your writing materials so it's not hard to put your hands on.

**OR –**

Our handout, "Letter-Tracking Form," is a form you can print out and fill in by hand, to keep track of your correspondence, if you like. Here's how to use the form:

- You print your grandchild's first name in the box that says "name." These "name" boxes run along the top of the page. Put them in the random order you first picked for writing. (See tip number 3.)
  - Down the left side, there are three boxes allowed per child, to be filled out under their name. The first one, "date sent," is for the date you sent them a letter.
  - The second one, "attachment," is to note what little surprise you tucked in that particular letter, so you don't end up repeating yourself. There are over 300 ideas in our "Topics" handout, and they are numbered.
  - The third one, "date received," is for the date the child sent you a letter, if he did.

## 5. YOUR STORAGE NEEDS:



- A box for “hanging files” might come in handy,
  - ✓ For letters:
    - You can label each folder with a child’s name, to file away letters they have sent you, or to keep copies of the ones you have sent them.
    - **Keep track of what you received** from the child so you can use it in conversation.
    - You may also want to keep these letters to make a lasting keepsake for your grandchild in a scrapbook someday. If they keep yours, those could be included in this “letter scrapbook.”
  - ✓ For handouts:
    - You can also use another section of folders (maybe at the back of the file box) to store categories of your paper surprises you want to include with your letters. (For instance, math games, riddles, jokes, photos, etc. Remember to look at our “Topics” handout for tons of ideas!
    - You can write on the front of each of the folders containing these inserts, which child you sent one of that particular category to, and when you sent it.
- Find a box or basket to hold your own writing materials: your “pen pal stuff.”



- Include pens,
- paper,
- stamps, (Use **unique stamps or return address labels, for added fun.**)
- address labels,
- self addressed stamped envelopes,
- items you might want to send in your future letters.

## 6. YOUR GRANDCHILD’S STORAGE NEEDS:

- Ask the parent to find a box for them to keep grandma's and grandpa's letters and little mementos in;
- Or –

Send him something in a box, telling him to “save this box,” so he can put in it the letters you’re going to send him.

### For supplies:

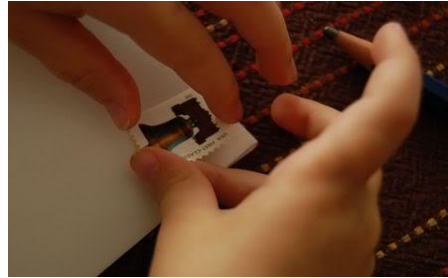
You -- or her mom and dad -- can put together a little letter writing kit to encourage your grandchild to write letters, too!

An accordion style folder can hold her materials.

- Pretty paper
- Crayons
- Stickers
- Pre-addressed envelopes to Grandma/Grandpa
- Index cards as flash cards just for letter-writing. This way she can be more independent about her letter-writing, and the letter can be a source of pride for her.
  - Some ideas for word-cards:
    - Dear, Grandma, how, love, miss, you, are, going, doing, day.



In the USA, you can use the Liberty Bell stamps for the pre-addressed, stamped envelopes you give the child. They are termed, "Forever Stamps," because they will work even when the cost of stamps goes up.



## 7. JUST START

It doesn't have to be a masterpiece. A friendly, **one-page letter**, is fun to write and fun to receive.

- **Print legibly** for younger kids. To keep the personal touch, it's ideal if you can write them in your own hand. It's best to avoid typing, unless your handwriting is illegible, or if writing causes you arthritis pain.
  - If you must type, explaining why you are doing so will help the child to feel more connected.
- **Write letters that need interaction or just give pleasure, by** throwing in a little surprise.
  - A sticker, a piece of gum, a feather you found, or a coloring page you have started, something to add that special **shared connection**. (**No extra postage usually needed for small items.**)
  - See our "Topics" handout for hundreds of suggestions!
    - ✓ Things to keep in mind as you write:
      - when writing to children under 12 years of age, print (not cursive writing)
      - writing letters takes time, so allow time.
      - form a mental picture of your grandchild
      - think about the things that you enjoy or appreciate about him
      - be specific and be descriptive
      - try being funny
      - highlight information you don't want your reader to miss
      - if you like, attach stickers to emphasize a point or just to add fun
      - what you share should be a part of you -- your interests and experience matter!
      - include a photograph, draw a picture, be creative
      - find time to write another letter -- make it a habit

## 8. SIGNATURE IS IMPORTANT

- For little ones, try signing letters with a black and white copy of a **snapshot** of you and grandpa, and paste it **beside your signature**. A great way to help the grandchild know WHO actually wrote the letter they are reading!
- **Something else that adds fun:** Develop a personalized "signature" (for instance, add a smiley face after your signature, or a heart with wings, a wink, etc.) This will help you reach even your youngest grandchildren, and will start a unique family tradition that even teens won't want to end.

## 9. NO PRESSURE FOR THE CHILD

- You may not get a letter back from your grandchild. Try not to pressure your grandchild. Even saying, "Why don't you write me more often?" might make him feel guilty, causing him to **not** look forward so much to talking to you or getting the next letter.
  - Remember, Grandparenting is about giving! Receiving is just a nice little side benefit we sometimes get. Keeping a relationship alive with pleasant, positive conversation will give you great influence in their lives.
  - **Don't insinuate you expect anything in return for your letters or gifts, not even a thank you note or call.** Just assume he was delighted.
  - If your mailbox is empty, you don't have to wait for someone else fill it for you.



Fill that mailbox up with love **YOU send out to OTHERS!**

## 10. IDEAS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR GRANDCHILD

- Accept your grandchild's **feelings**. Often, parents and grandparents try to smooth over painful emotions by saying, "That's nothing! You'll forget about it tomorrow." Take your grandchild's **feelings** seriously, even if you strongly suspect they'll be short-lived. Also, take your grandchild's **concerns** seriously. Listen carefully to what your grandchild is saying, and then respond to his/her questions or concerns.
- Try not to **pressure** your grandchild. Even saying "I wish that you could come stay with me," or "Why don't you write me more often?" might make your grandchild feel guilty or resentful that you want something that he has no control over giving.
- Avoid being **critical**. Being a good listener is more valuable than lecturing a grandchild about how to behave, which is the parents' responsibility. Try not to compare children to their parents or to your other grandchildren.
- **Take notes** on what they say so you won't forget.
- Remember to praise his **accomplishments** such as losing first tooth, successfully using the toilet, reading a book, etc. The parent can help prompt you by phone of things he's done.

## 11. CLICK ON OUR HANDOUT, "101 WAYS TO PRAISE A CHILD," AND PRINT IT.



You can print it on attractive paper.

Keep it by your phone or in your writing material box.

These are good, positive expressions to use.

Try using old terms: "You're keen, nifty, spiffy, the bee's knees, the cat's meow," etc.

## “SMALL AND SIMPLE THINGS”

The power of loving words in long-distance grandparenting.

Need TOPICS to WRITE about?



# Writing Letters to our Grandchildren

These ideas are numbered so that you can record in your log just what you sent, to whom, and when.

## Things about you:

1. Talk about some of the dramatic changes that have occurred since you were a child: television, jet planes, computers, etc.
2. **Talk about people in your life who have made a difference because of their caring and generosity.**
3. Describe some courageous moments you had as you were growing up.
4. Talk about some of the times you were sad and what you did to deal with your feelings. Describe some of the things a person might do to express sadness, such as crying, going for a quiet walk, talking to someone, or praying.
5. **Talk about things that make you happy.**
6. Talk about things you like and dislike.
7. Describe your life as a child. What did you enjoy doing then? What were your friends like?
8. **Where and when were you born?**
9. Where did you grow up?
10. **How many brothers and sisters did you have?**
11. What did your parents do for a living?
12. Discuss your experiences of growing up: games, sports, school, work, and exciting events.
13. You may wish to tell them a story about you, when you were little, in each letter. Stories can even start with something like, “This is a true story. One time, when I was a little girl, I climbed an apple tree ...” The simple tale you write, about what happened next, can take some twists and turns in the plot and make for great bedtime reading.



Some topics for these stories:

14. Your best friend when you were little
15. **A favorite game you played (marbles, jacks, baseball)**
16. Your neighborhood or life on a farm
17. **What school was like for you**
18. Playing in the school band or singing in the choir
19. **Sports you played**

List  
of  
Topics

20. A time you got in trouble with your mom and dad
21. **A motto you live by**
22. Tell your philosophy of life.
23. **Your grandparents (that's their great-great grandparents!)**
24. How historical events impacted your life (war, civil rights, elections, etc.)



25. **Don't forget to tell them your testimony.**

26. Tell them about the first time you felt something through the Spirit of the Lord.

27. **Tell them the impact that the Gospel has had in your life.**

28. Tell them a scripture that has made a difference in your life.

29. **Tell them how you feel about Heavenly Father, and Jesus Christ,**

30. About Joseph Smith, about the Book of Mormon and other scriptures.

31. **Write a brief family history. You might invite your grandchild to illustrate it.**



32. Tell stories about the child's parent growing up. (For instance, tell them funny things their parent did – or that YOU did! -- at the age your grandchild is now.)

33. **Share favorite family stories, family jokes, and family recipes.**

34. Tell stories about accomplishments of relatives, like the first family member to attend college or someone who lived through a particularly interesting chapter of history. Tales of achievement foster self-esteem by helping children to discover heroes within their own family.

36. **Stories by mail:**

- **Write your grandchildren an ongoing story, and send along small "chapters" as they are finished. Children can progress from having the story read to them, to reading the next chapter on their own.**
  - **(This could work well with sharing your personal history.) (Sharing your personal history in this way is particularly fun with your Missionary Grandchild!)**

Just for fun Stories:

- 37. **Game:** Take an index card and write down five things about yourself—**four of which are true, one of which isn't!** Have them guess which one. Then have them make a similar card for you to guess from.
- 38. **Write a series of fictional children's stories describing the adventures you and your grandchild would have had together, if you would have grown up together.**
- 39. Create an "add-on" story with your grandchild through email or letters. Write a paragraph in your letter and then have your grandchild write the next paragraph in his or her letter.

- Example: Have one person start out the story. "One day, I was walking down the street." Then the other must add to the story. "And I saw a beautiful orange car." And then you could say, "And a lovely lady was driving it." Next could be, "She had a most remarkable lion, waving from the back seat...."

- 40. **Draw a picture or write a story about something you would like to do in the future, or when you "grow up."**



41. Involve them in your own favorite activities, by telling them about --
42. **fishing,**
  43. **baking,**
  44. **stamp collecting,**
  45. **swimming,**
  46. **raking leaves,**
  47. **gardening,**
  48. **reading, etc.**



49. Describe your current friends. What qualities do you look for in a friend?
50. **Take your grandchild on an imaginary tour by verbally describing your home in detail. Do you live in an old house? Does it have an attic? Is it small or large? Describe other places you have lived.**  
OR --
51. Take your grandchild on an imaginary home tour with **a little sketched drawing**. Draw one or more pictures of your home on a sheet of paper or attach some photos of it to the paper.
52. **Tell your grandchild about your job,**
53. **volunteer work,**
  54. **travel,** and
  55. **your friends.**
- (Sometimes children are surprised to hear what active, busy people their grandparents are.)
56. **Send them on a Scavenger Hunt:**  
**A scavenger hunt is flexible, and you can have them do it indoors or outdoors. Especially for younger children, give several descriptions of the items they'll be seeking, such as an orange ball, or a pencil with no eraser, or a pillow with fringes.**  
OR --
57. Tell them to go on a treasure hunt: Tell me something that made you happy, people you thought were interesting, things that are funny, the most beautiful thing you saw.
58. **Find out a story about them from Mom or Dad and tell it to them in your letter.**  
OR --
59. Mom or Dad says you are "this" or "this" (some complimentary thing you have been told by the parents about the child.)
60. **Tell them about the birthday celebration you had for them at your house. (Maybe eat their favorite food, etc.)**
61. Use letters to keep memories of past visits alive. Mention that you had ice cream at the child's favorite sweet shop, or write about the cat you found in what they designated the "secret garden" at your house.
62. **Arrange ahead of time to watch a television broadcast "together," then talk afterward by phone or letter, to share your impressions and feelings about the show.**

Send quotes:

63. **jokes,**
  64. **tell them tongue twisters,**
  65. **inspirational quotes, or**
  66. **any other information you run across which is related to an activity that's important to the child.**
67. Let your grandchildren know what a typical day is like for you. Ask for them to tell you about their typical day.





**Above all, communicate your love for the child, by being interested in him or her.**

## **Things about them:**



However much we wish to pass on information about *Ourselves* to live on forever, we must remember that these letters are, first and foremost, about creating and maintaining a reciprocal relationship. This is done by following the same gentle rules of politeness that you would employ in creating a friendship anywhere.

Here are some open-ended statements you can use to demonstrate that your focus is truly on the love you have for this child. Don't be overwhelmed by thinking all of these statements should be used in one letter. You could begin each letter by finishing only one of these statements, or one like them, and then get on with other matters you think would be fun to include.

68. **This year, as you complete your \_\_\_th year, what I've noticed most in your growth is how you have become.....**

69. A couple of my very favorite moments this year were when you...

70. **I bet you'll always be able to remember the time when we...**

71. One of the main things you've taught me is...

72. **I've noticed that at school right now, you seem to enjoy....**



73. You'll grow, develop, and change in the years ahead, for sure. Right now, though, as I see who you already are, I can imagine that you'll grow to be the kind of person who...

74. **One of the things I most admire about the way you behave is that you...**

75. During the year ahead, one of the things I'll focus on as your (grandma or grandpa) is helping you to...

76. **It's natural for you to learn to behave like your parents. As I've watched you develop this past year, I can clearly see you being like your (mother or father) when you... (A positive trait, of course!)**

77. Kids reveal a lot about themselves through the friends they pick. I've noticed the interesting choices you've made in your own circle of playmates.

At this point in your life, you always say your best friend is (*best friend's name.*) You seem to really enjoy (*playmate's name*) because of (*point out his or her traits and qualities that seem to draw your grandchild*)...

And even though you have lots of other friends, you seem to really particularly enjoy (*another playmate's name*) because of (*point out his or her traits and qualities that seem to draw your grandchild*)...

78. **One of your qualities that I especially admire is how you...**

79. This last year of knowing you and watching you develop has meant so much to me. The biggest thing I'll carry forward in my heart is the knowledge that...

80. **I love you, and that's why I've written this letter!**

81. Get involved in their interests (they change often with kids!) Find out what they like, whether it's:

82. **Collecting (rocks, bottle caps, stamps, scripture verses),**

83. Watching or playing a sport,

84. **Fishing, or**

85. Being fascinated by cats.



86. **TV programs they watch.**

87. Music they listen to.

89. **(Be prepared not to be thrilled about everything they are doing.)**

90. Who are their friends and what do they like to do together?

91. **Ask them what their friends have that they like to play with.**

92. Ask them to send photos of their rooms, friends, and what they are doing.

93. **Ask child about some times when they have shared something.**

94. Ask child to tell about a time when he/she was brave.

95. **Ask them to tell about something they are proud of, like art, a sport, or a school project they got a good grade on.**

96. Ask them to tell you their philosophy of life.

97. **After receiving your grandchild's letter, identify some of the things your grandchild likes to do and contrast them with what children that age did when you were young.**

98. Read the same book, and then "talk" about it in a letter.

99. **Have older children send you their spelling words and include them your sentences in subsequent letters.**

100. Ask if there is a zoo nearby, or

101. **horseback riding,**

102. **a bike trail,**

103. **a nice place to walk, or other attractions in their town or area.**

104. Ask them to send you a project they are proud of, or a picture of it.



**Try sending a form letter to fill out. Any of the questions following would be great in a form letter, with blanks they simply fill in and send back in a pre-addressed, stamped envelope you have included!**

It's easy to let the child get to know you through letter-writing, but you may have more success in getting a letter back if you start out by simply including a "form letter." This should be on a separate sheet from your letter.

You may find that they fill out blanks with insights about themselves that are interesting, unpredictable, or amusing. For example, here is one sentence: At school, I like \_\_\_\_\_ but not \_\_\_\_\_. We might expect a child to write something like ...I Like English but not Math, but they very rarely do! One young writer answered this with ...I like a boy named Nick but not his friend Cory!!

105. **Here is an example of an easy questionnaire:**

**"Circle the kind of books you like most.**

**Fairy tales**

**Picture books**

**Romances**

**Adventure**

**Poetry**

**Jokes/riddles**

**Science fiction**

**Detective stories**

**Sports novels**

**How-to books**

**Books about growing up**

**Autobiography and biography"**

**Some Conversation-Starter Questions about them – for phone, letters, or simple questionnaires-**

106. **(If by phone, you may want to give them a couple of questions to think about so they can answer in the next conversation.)**



107. **If we could just drop what we're doing and go do something fun, what would it be?**

108. What is one of the most adventurous things you've ever done?

109. **If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?**

110. Which character in a book is a lot like you? How?

111. **What is the weirdest dream you ever had?**



112. Which character from a movie you've seen is a lot like you? How?

113. Which parts of your home do you like best?
114. **What about getting older makes you most excited?**
115. What games are you the best at playing?
116. **What is the strangest thing you ever brought home?**
117. What is your favorite all-time cartoon character?
118. **What's the best movie you've seen lately?**
119. What are your favorite sounds?
120. **What's your favorite smell?**
121. If you could be any animal what would you be?
122. **What three words best describe you?**
123. If you had to paint the inside of your house all one color, what would it be?
124. **What's your favorite knock-knock joke?**
125. Do you prefer baths or showers?
- 126. What's your favorite breakfast food?**
127. Ever seen a tarantula? When?
128. **If you could have a super power, what would it be?**
129. Do you prefer the mountains or the beach?
130. **Have you ever been on a boat?**
131. Have you ever made a boat? Where did you float it?
132. **What would you do if you had no TV (or hand-held game, or wii, etc)?**
133. Would you talk on the phone?
134. **Read a book?**
135. Play sports or games?
136. **Go out to socialize?**
137. Write?
138. **Do work?**
139. Could you live with no TV ever?
140. **Do you question things or wonder why things work? What things?**



For older children: What are the first things that come to mind when you think of:

141. **Pyramids?**
142. Stonehenge?
143. **Crop circles?**
144. Ancient Mayan civilization?
145. **Easter Island?**
146. Bigfoot?
147. **Loch Ness?**



148. If you could have witnessed any historical or scriptural event, which one would you choose?

149. **What is the greatest invention that has come along in your lifetime so far?**

Why was this invention important to you?

150. **What time do you normally wake up?**

151. Are you a morning person?

152. **What time do you normally go to bed?**

153. Which strengths in your life bring you the greatest satisfaction?

154. **What talent would you like to have?**

155. Have you ever won a prize in a contest?

156. **Have you ever crawled through a window?**

157. What's the most fun you've had in the last year?

158. **If you had to eat one thing for the rest of your life, what would it be?**

159. Peanut butter and what?

160. **What is your favorite ice cream?**

161. What's your favorite color?

162. **What is your favorite game?**

163. What is your favorite type of fast food?

164. **What do you want to be when you grow up?**

165. What's your earliest childhood memory?

166. **What's the best compliment you've ever received?**

167. What's the worst advice you've ever taken?

168. **Tell me about your best friend.**

169. When do you feel most loved?

170. **What is the kindest thing anyone ever did for you?**

171. What is your favorite drink in the summer?

172. **What is your favorite season? Why?**

173. What is your favorite vegetable? Why

174. **What's your favorite word? Why do you like it?**

175. Have you ever sprained your ankle/wrist? How did it happen?

176. **Have you ever seen a tornado?**



177. Have you ever built an igloo?

178. **Have you ever walked into a lamp-post (or anything else)?**

179. Tell me about something you believe in.

180. **Tell me about a place you've visited.**

181. Tell me about an accident you've seen.

182. **Tell me about a time when you were happy.**

183. Tell me about a time when you were sad.

184. **Tell me about a time when you were excited.**

185. Tell me about a time when you were frightened.

186. **Tell me about your favorite pastime.**

187. Tell me about chocolate.

188. **Tell me about rainy days.**

189. Tell me about something beautiful.

190. **Tell me about something ugly.**

191. Tell me about something delicious.

192. **Tell me about something pleasant.**

193. Tell me about something boring.

194. **Tell me about something with four legs.**

195. Tell me about something with a tail.

196. **Tell me about something spicy.**

197. Tell me about the hardest thing you ever had to do.

198. **Tell me about someone in your family.**

199. Tell me about something you've achieved.

200. **Do you like snow?**

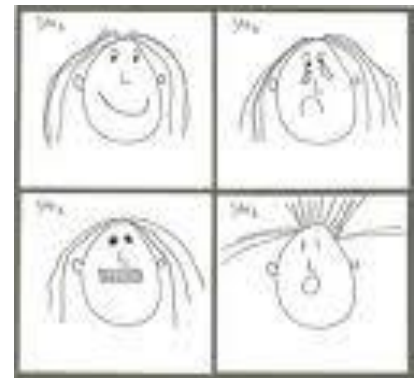
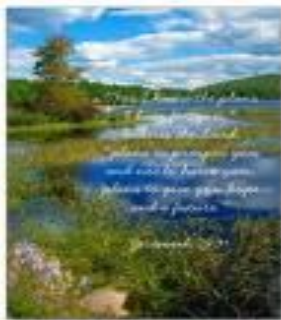
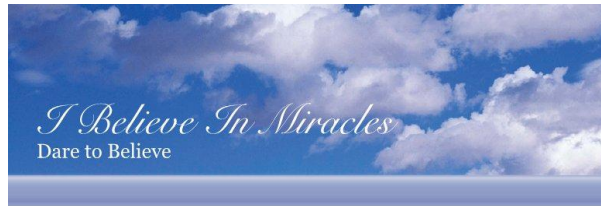
201. Which do you like better hot weather or cold weather?

202. **In your opinion, which season is the most beautiful?**

203. Which season is the most comfortable for you?

204. **What is your favorite winter activity?**

205. If the whole world were listening, what would you say?



**"My Feelings"**



*Tell Grandma your stories.*

206. **If one song were to describe your life, what song would it be?**
207. If you could change one thing in the world, what would it be?
208. **If you had time machine, where would you go and why?**
209. If you had one wish, what would you wish for?



*What do you think, dear child?*

210. **If you could only listen to one song for the rest of your life, which song would you choose?**
211. If you were going to a deserted island and could only take three things with you, what would you take?
212. **If you could have three wishes, what would they be?**
213. **Have you ever had a wish come true?**

## HOW TO INCLUDE AN EXTRA SPECIAL “SOMETHING” FUN ITEMS YOU CAN TUCK INSIDE THE ENVELOPE

Send something small and inexpensive, but don't feel pressured. Have fun!

### How to Make an Interesting Activity Letter for a Child

Here is the easy part that makes your letters more than just a personal letter about day-to-day issues. You can add something extra fun! Choose some little extra something – you can choose from the list below, or think up your own -- to make the letter an educational, fun-filled, activity for the child.

### For example, you could include “paper activities”

214. Create a pictorial life line for yourself or the child.
1. On a long strip of paper, draw a heavy horizontal line representing "life."
  2. Mark "birth" and your (or his) birth date at the left end.
  3. Mark significant points on the life line with pictures, notations, or brief descriptions to signify the events.
  4. Include anything you think is important or interesting.
215. **Send Posters to congratulate your grandchildren on things like losing the first tooth, successfully using the toilet, or achieving some other milestone.**
216. **Consider reversing the print in a portion of your letter. Tell your grandchild to put the letter up to a mirror to read the message. How to do it: Stack two pieces of paper on top of a carbon sheet, carbon on up. With a pen, press hard while writing your message on the top sheet. The print will be backward on the back of the second sheet! Send that one!**



217. **“Art is another great means of communication. Try sketching a figure, including some distinguishing feature. Mail the sketch to the grandchild with a caption something like this: ‘Who is this? Is this grandpa? Is this daddy? Or is it uncle Tim? Finish the picture and send it to grandma for her refrigerator door. We love you, gma & gpa.’” ~Meridian Magazine**

218. **Find an old picture of yourself or of your parents that you would be willing to share, or make a copy. Place this picture on a sheet of paper, and write a brief explanation of the picture.**



### 219. **Stickers**

There are sticker book sets on the market you can use with younger children.

For example, give your grandchild an animal sticker book and buy packets of animal stickers over time for them to stick in the right spot and learn about animals. Whatever the collection, it becomes a common interest you share.

### 220. **Paper airplanes**



### 221. **Paper dolls**

222. **A special puzzle. An easy way: take a piece of colored card stock, write on it a note to the grandchild, cut the card stock into large pieces, and mail them. A letter and an activity rolled into one effort!**

223. Send a picture or description of something owned or made by an ancestor.

1. Tell the name of the ancestor and his or her relationship.
2. Include a description of how the object was made or used.



224. **Children enjoy learning from their grandparents. Teaching your grandchild to make a special recipe or to grow their own tomato plant is rewarding for you both. If you have a traditional food or dish that your mother or grandmother prepared, send the recipe to your grandchild.**

**Explain how the food became a tradition in your family.**



225. Make a "love flower" for your grandchild's scrapbook.

1. Cut out a circle from construction paper, and write your grandchild's name in the middle.
2. Add petals, leaves, and a stem.
3. On each of the leaves and petals, write something you like or appreciate about your grandchild.
4. Glue this "love flower" to a piece of paper.
5. Briefly explain your flower on the back.

226. **If you find a cute picture in a magazine that you know the child would relate to...cut it out and send it with a piece of lined paper.**

**Tell her she can give the character a name, and even write a story about an adventure she and this character go on.**

**(Do this only for the child that already loves to write stories, so that the arrival of your letters always means fun and smiles!)**

**If you have a large number of grandchildren, the following is probably not feasible – But it's a fun idea for one or two grandkids:**

227. Send stationery to your grandchild; use a different but matching pattern for your letters. Tell him or her, "I use this stationery just to write to you!" and use it only for that purpose. This will make him or her feel special.

228. On a piece of paper, draw a picture of you and your grandchild doing something together. On the back or the bottom of this picture, describe what you are doing together. Why is it fun?



229. **Send a comic strip from the newspaper.**

230. Send a flower or helium balloon from the florist.

231. **Send old pictures of you and of your grandchild's parents.**

Send items that reflect the seasons, such as

232. **A beautiful leaf, leaf-rubbings,**

233. A pressed spring flower, or

234. **Seeds from your garden.**

235. (You might place delicate items between two pieces of clear contact paper, if you want.)



236. Make a teeny tiny letter to send.

You can enter in the "font size"

Any small number you wish.

This is probably a size 4 or less.

Remember, this is a little "extra," and still needs to be mailed in a regulation-sized envelope!



237. **You might make a drawing of something you saw in your trip to a park.**



238. **Write a poem,**

239. Send a program from a special event.

240. **Send a brochure from a visit to a local museum.**

241. You can also invite them to send such things to you.

242. **Use a photo as a postcard.**



243. Send a picture of some cookies for a 'virtual' treat!

244. **Your junk mail can be a source of stickers, labels, and pages that can be painted or colored. Wrap them up with a bow and they become something fun.**

245. **ALPHABET** If your grandchild is learning to write letters of her name, you may like to send her pages of the letters of the alphabet to help her learn how to write the letters.

246. **OR –**

1. Grab your digital camera and take a walk around your neighborhood – or go to a park, the mall, a farmer's market, or a yard sale. Whatever you like!
2. Take a picture of something that starts with the letter A, then something that starts with the letter B.
3. Continue until you have taken a picture for every letter of the alphabet.

4. You don't have to be 'literal' in your picture taking (you don't have to use a picture of a ball for the letter "B".)
5. Be creative!
6. For the letter C, you could take a picture of an outfit that you really like in a store window which would stand for 'cute.'
7. A junk heap of a car could be 'broken' for the letter B.
8. Cookies at the bakery could be Y for 'yummy.'
9. Or a bed could be 'sleep' for the letter S.

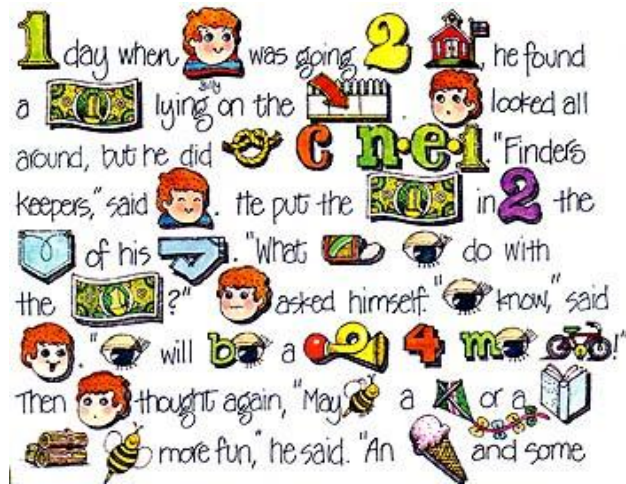
247. **Drawing people parts:**

Start by drawing an image, fold the paper in a pleat to hide your work, before passing it on to the child. Two vertical lines above a fold form a neck, so the child knows where the head should be. The head could be a baseball cap. An arm could be a fish. A leg could be a math equation, etc.

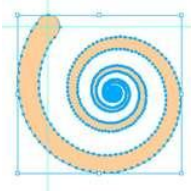
248. **Continued hangman; make it on its own page, so they can send the page back with their letter.**

249. **Send a letter written in Rhexus:**

A letter written with small pictures to substitute for some of the words. (Like a picture of an eye to stand for the word, "I".)



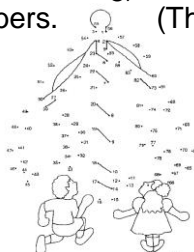
250. **Write your letter starting in the center of an unlined page, and continue, making the imaginary lines you are writing on follow a spiral shape, till the page is filled up. (When you are finished with that page, the lines of writing themselves have formed one big spiral.)**



251. You can also send a page from a word-find book, a crossword puzzle book, a word-scramble book, a Sudoku book---All these books can usually be found at discount stores. There are many pages in them, and you will be sending just one at a time. (So you don't overwhelm the child!) Try to fill out some parts of the page first, if you can, so that it will be a shared activity.

252. **Cut your letter into a puzzle or cut up a picture postcard with a message on the back. Put it into an envelope.**

253. Get an advanced (goes high in the numbering) Dot-to-dot activity. You connect the higher numbers, and send it for the child to do the lower numbers. (This one is Jack and Jill. Surprised?)



254. **You can send a piece of string, with some directions on how to play some string games that you like.**

255. Speaking of string, make a "fishing line" by simply tying a magnet to the end of a length of string. Attach paper clips to little paper fish that you have cut out, and stick them into the envelope along with your letter! Tell the child to, "Have fun taking a little fishing trip, on me!"

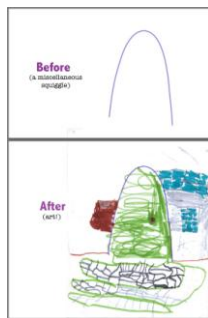
256. **Team squiggle-drawing**

**You can have the child start this, so they understand what to do.**

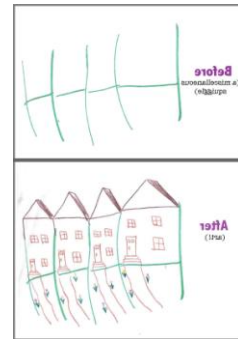
**1. Let them draw a simple squiggle (give them an example or two of how simple you want it to be).**

**2. They then mail it with their letter to you (or all by itself).**

**3. You can create a finished picture out of it, or you can continue the squiggle with a finished object in mind. Then send it back and see if they had the same thing in mind as you!**



<<< **BEFORE** >>>



<<< **AFTER** >>>

## You can also use the internet to help with variety in paper activities.

257. Many sites offer free, printable stationery, lined or blank, so you can have themed stationery.

258. **Some sites have cut outs, coloring pages, games, mazes, "homework" sheets and so much more!**

Just do an online search for "free \_\_\_\_\_ printables." Fill in the blank as to what you are looking for like "free Halloween printables" and you will find sites offering free printable pages of activities of all kinds to include with your letter to your grandchild. Or, in the search bar, just type the words, "free printables." You will find fantastic places to find stationery, charts, work pages, etc.

259. You may want to include activity pages for them to do, such as mazes, math games, writing skill activities, puzzles etc. Choose themes that are the child's favorite.

260. **If your grandchild can't read or write yet, you can find things like "match it up" or "memory game" where you and she can color the pages and then cut out the squares with child safe scissors and start playing the game herself.**

261. Coloring pages are also a great additional to the personal, activity letter to your grandchild. Most ages love to color, and if you send their favorite character or topic, they'll have the crayons out in seconds!



## GENEALOGY FUN Your Family Tree

262. **Sketch a tree on a piece of paper. Label the branches and roots on your family tree.  
Write your complete name and the names of your mother and father on the tree trunk.  
Trace your roots on your mother's and father's sides of the family.  
Try to include the birth (maiden) names of all female ancestors.**

OR --

263. You and your grandchild can make a diagram of your family tree, perhaps including photographs. There is computer software available for charting family trees. Or, get a large sheet of paper and some pencil crayons or markers. Show your grandchild where to draw boxes for various relatives, starting at the bottom with the oldest generation you know about and then branching out. You might want to use one color for one side of the family and a different color for the other.

264. **OR –  
Send a tree diagram for a wall chart; then send little pictures to add to it.**



## You can include a “little gift” for your grandchild, instead. Here are some suggestions:

You can start when your grandchild is around three years old. You can just send little things you may have around the house, with a note, “This is Grandma’s or Grandpa’s. I’d like you to have it.” Also, craft shops and "dollar" stores are great places for these kinds of little gifts.

**Remember, it's not the gift itself that's important, but the connection it makes. It says, "I'm thinking about you."**

One woman said that during her four years in college, she most looked forward to letters from her grandmother, which always contained a little "surprise" -- a stick of gum, a cartoon clipped from the newspaper, a funny sticker, a lucky coin. You can give or mail your grandchild a little something every once in a while as a surprise.

The key is shared experiences, but they can be simple. It’s important to consider age, personality, interests, attention span, abilities and skills.

Think about it from the child’s point of view: You might love the natural history museum, but the child might be bored.

Look around at the things you take for granted in your environment that will be a treasure trove for your grandchildren. Be creative and imaginative.

## You might send...

265. **A small stencil**



266. A finger puppet,

267. **A feather you have found, or**

268. purchase a fancy one (peacock, perhaps) from a craft store.



269. **A balloon with a message on it ("blow up this balloon to read a surprise message from Grandma")**

270. Tell them you are including a stick of gum, like the one you are chewing right now while you write their letter.

271. **A magazine ad or photo, cut up like a puzzle.**

272. Refrigerator magnet you can make:

Make a heart, or some other picture on cardstock, (even a gift card with a little message from you on it) and glue it to a flat magnet.



You can also send things your grandchild can experiment with;

273. **A magnet ("run it through dry dirt to pick up metal bits")**

274. Sorting items that float or sink

275. **Flower/vegetable seeds to put in a baggie with a cotton ball (they wet the cotton first.)**

276. Sometimes it's a nice idea to enclose a **note** with playful gifts suggesting things your grandchild can do. For example: "Here's a magnifying glass that's especially for you! If you hold it up to your eye and look through it, it makes things look bigger.

Take it around the house and look closely at....

the wooden railing along the stairs,

the carpet,

a banana peel,

a raisin.

What do you see?

Look at your brother's nose.

Does it look bigger?

Let me know what else you see with your magnifying glass."



277. **Tuck into the envelope a quarter you found while you were on a walk. Tell them if it made you think of them and anything interesting about the walk.**

278. Make a **picture out of pennies** stuck to a sheet of colored cardboard (you can even spell out your grandchild's name). Your grandchild can admire the picture for a while, and then put the coins in their piggy bank.

**A word of caution: if you give money to your grandchildren, or to your adult children for your grandchildren, be careful about putting restrictions on its use. If you can afford it, and it's coming from your heart, give it -- with the assumption that it will be used wisely. To do otherwise is to put a strain on your relationship.**

279. **Another idea is to make shapes and animals out of the fuzzy "wire twisties" available in craft stores. You might make a giraffe out of a yellow twistie, and send it to your grandchild with another yellow twistie to playfully "challenge" them to make the same animal.**

280. Give your grandchild a **map**. Be sure to mark both of your homes on the map.

Send small gifts **along with a message**. **Pipe cleaners, balloons, and flower seeds** are educational and inexpensive gifts for children ages three to six. Most **older** children enjoy...

281. **Magic tricks, recipes, and**

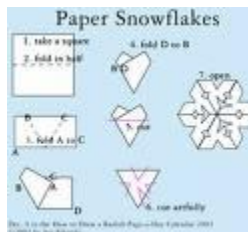
282. **Colored pencils.**

283. Write postcards. Send each child his/her own postcard with a simple, personal message. (pictures of **animals, planes, and cartoons** are generally big successes with children.)



284. **A penny you found with their birth year on it.**

285. Paper snowflakes



286. **Send a length of string.**

**Have them mark how tall they are.**

**Have them send the string back, and find a suitable spot in your garden or home to mark it with your grandchildren's height, along with the date.**

**Do this periodically to update it. It will be fun for your grandchild to see that you have been keeping track of how much he's grown!**



287. Sending consecutive gifts that **go together**, like the letters of their name, mailed one at a time, creates a special kind of anticipation and excitement. (D, on Monday; A, on Tuesday; V, on Wednesday; I, on Thursday; D, on Friday.)

288. **Send a "Heart Attack". Cut out heart shaped pieces of paper and write on them the things you appreciate about your grandchild. Place all the hearts in an envelope and**  **send them.**

289. Send your grandchild a homemade hug that he or she can wrap around him or herself. Cut a piece of material 1 yard long and 4-5 inches wide. Trace your hands onto 2 pieces of felt and cut them out. Glue the hands to the ends of the material and




decorate the hug.

## Gifts that take a little more time:

Help your grandchild start a collection and then add to it over time.

- 290. **It can be cards (baseball to dinosaur),**
- 291. rocks,
- 292. **stamps,**
- 293. coins,
- 294. **comic books,**
- 295. miniatures or figurines, etc.

**Whatever the collection, it becomes a common interest you share.**

- 296. **Make a jigsaw puzzle of a picture of yourself, your house, or something else you value.**  
**Paste the picture on heavy paper or lightweight cardboard.**  
**Cut it into a variety of shapes for the "puzzle pieces."**
- 297. Make a bookmark from felt, pasting on your grandchild's initials, or make a bookmark "mouse."  
 Cut an oval of felt, and add felt eyes and ears.  
 Glue on a strand of yarn for a tail.
- 298. **Write a poem or a story.**  
**Create a poem or write a short story describing an experience you had with giving, for instance. You could illustrate it with your own drawings or with pictures cut from magazines.**
- 299. Mail one-a-day love packages.  
 Send four or five small packages or envelopes for your grandchild to open on certain days.  
 You might include treats, stickers, notes, small trinkets, or I.O.U.s for future activities.  
 On each package, specify when it is to be opened, and include an explanatory note.
- 300. **Make a treasure box.**  
**Decorate a small box as a container for a special treasure.**  
**Leave the decision to your grandchild for what to put inside.**


**OR -**  
**Enclose a note with a brief explanation of the box and its purpose.**
- 301. Make a mosaic. (You could include glue)  
 Save eggshells; wash and dry them. Dip the eggshells in food coloring, using several colors.  
 After spreading them out to dry, crush the eggshells into small pieces.  
 Draw a design on a sheet of paper and glue the colored eggshells in a mosaic pattern.  
 Write a brief explanation of mosaics and tell how tile mosaics have lasted for centuries as decorations on buildings.
- 302. **Make a "grandpicture."**  
**Draw a portrait of your grandchild.**  
**Write a brief description of what you like about him or her.**

- 303. Make a "balloon person."  
 Write your grandchild's name on a balloon with a felt-tipped marker and draw his or her picture on it. Attach the balloon to a piece of paper with tape.  
 Write a short note asking your grandchild to watch the picture change as the balloon is blown up.
- 304. **Go for a nature walk.**  
**On a walk, look for interesting twigs, rocks, leaves, etc.**  
**Arrange the rocks and other things to make "helpful people" or objects.**

**Add decorative touches with paint to indicate eyes, nose, hair, and other body features.**

305. OR --

**Simply paint a little picture on a piece of wood or a small rock.**

306. Make hand prints.

Paint your hands' palms and fingers.

Make a print of your hands on a sheet of paper.

Explain at the bottom of the page the many ways your hands can be helpful.



307. **Make collages to compare.**

**Cut small, angular pieces from assorted colors of tissue paper.**

**Glue an overlapping collage design onto paper or cardboard. Frame it.**

**On the back of the picture, invite the child to add improvements to your collage**

**Or invite him to create his own collage to send to you.**

308. Make up your own secret code.

1. You, the grandparent, will make up simple symbols for the first 13 letters of the alphabet.

2. Keep a copy of the code for yourself and send a copy to your grandchild.

3. Ask him or her to make up symbols for the remaining 13 letters and send you a copy

4. Now you can send "secret" messages to each other using the symbols.

secret coded letter values

0 = '	9 = N	18 = D
1 = F	10 = I	19 = B
2 = M	11 = L	20 = P
3 = H	12 = R	21 = W
4 = G	13 = X	22 = T
5 = O	14 = C	23 = Q
6 = A	15 = J	24 = Z
7 = S	16 = Y	25 = U
8 = E	17 = K	26 = V

309. OR --

**Another idea: Letters of the alphabet corresponding to a number. (Be sure to give the key!) You can write, "Here is a secret message for you. You can figure out what it says by using the attached secret code."**

310. OR --

Develop special code words, such as from a foreign language, to communicate special things.

311. **Make a "happiness picture" for your grandchild's scrapbook.**

**Draw a diagonal line from corner to corner across a sheet of paper. Paste a yellow construction paper sun in the upper half and a blue construction paper cloud on the lower half.**

**Cut out pictures from magazines that portray something that brightens or saddens you. Paste these pictures on the page under the sun or the cloud, depending on the feeling you assign them.**

**On the back of the page, explain why these things brighten or sadden you.**

312. Make "feelings" badges.

Design badges of various sizes and shapes.

Attach labels of feelings (examples: sad, excited, or happy) to them.

Find pictures in magazines to match these feelings.

*~ adapted from Mississippi State University, publication 1591*

313. **Send a picture of the snow in your back yard, or a bug you found, or a cousin, etc.**



**CAMERA FUN -**

314. Lend your grandchild an inexpensive camera. Encourage your grandchild to photograph their fun times. You can both cherish and converse about the photos when you're apart.

315. **OR –**

**Buy an inexpensive digital camera for the child, telling them to photograph certain subjects, such as something funny, someone they love, something interesting, etc. The photos can then be downloaded and emailed to you.**

316. **OR –**

Ask the child to photograph each child in their family for you.



317. **OR –**

**Create a photographic family "museum," in which your child can look at old photos of jewelry, china, and other treasures.**

**Then you can have child photograph things that are considered treasures to him, or to his family at home.**



318. **OR –**

**You can use the "treasure hunt" idea from the "Topics to Write About" section. Here it is, in case you can't find it in the handout:**

*Send them on a [photographic] Scavenger Hunt:*

*A scavenger hunt is flexible, and you can have them do it indoors or outdoors. Especially for younger children, give several descriptions of the items they'll be seeking, such as an orange ball, or a pencil with no eraser, or a pillow with fringes.*



319. **OR --**

**Tell them to go on a treasure hunt: Tell [photograph for] me something that made you happy, people you thought were interesting, things that are funny, the most beautiful thing you saw.**

320. Flat Stanley

He is the title character of a 1964 book by Jeff Brown. Stanley Lambchop is a normal boy who finds himself flattened by a bulletin board, but that doesn't stop his adventures. He is sent through the mail to places all around the world, where friends and family take him on trips, see sights, and increase his knowledge of the world.



The object of the whole thing is to take Flat Stanley where you go, and send the child a photo of Flat Stanley and you together at that place. You can also send him back and forth, for you to take turns sending the photographs to each other.

Send a small book, and keep one of the same book at your house. You can talk about things on individual pages in your letters or over the phone, and they can see it in their matching one.

321. You could send cut-out geometric pieces of paper or felt for this truck, or a snowman, or a Christmas tree, or a summer scene (round tree with rectangle trunk, triangle grass spikes, round sun, square house with rectangle roof, etc.)



322. Buy a **box of inexpensive** greeting cards. Kids love cards with a cute picture on it. Print your detailed message in the card then tell them, in the card, that this card is theirs to carry around or put on their dresser. (\*For your grandchild's **birthday**, don't just sign a card; write something briefly that has a special meaning.)

323. **Make a video or audio letter. (Tape, CD, DVD) Grandma and Grandpa's voice is fun to play over and over.**

**324. If these things aren't convenient, have the parent let you record a message on their voicemail, and save it, for the child to listen to as often as they like! (A recording of you reading your letter would be sharing additional memories!)**

324. One woman said she just slapped a label on a piñata and mailed it. It wasn't even crushed when it arrived!

**Whatever you do, don't forget to send a short written letter as well!**





# 101 Ways To Praise A Child ... 101. Say, "I love you"—often!

---

1. Way-to-go!
2. You're special.
3. You're on your way.
4. How smart!
5. Good Job!
6. Good for you!
7. You're a winner.
8. Terrific!
9. Great discovery.
10. I trust you.
11. You're exciting.
12. You're so sweet.
13. You make my life complete.
14. You're so heavenly.
15. Bravo!
16. Super!
17. Outstanding!
18. Great!
19. Wow!
20. That's amazing!
21. How nice.
22. That's incredible!
23. You're adorable.
24. Dynamite!
51. Good!
52. You make me happy.
53. You're incredible.
54. You're on target.
55. Looking good.
56. I knew you could do it.
57. I'm proud of you.
58. Well done!
59. Marvelous!
60. Exceptional performance.
61. You're a real trooper.
62. You are so responsible.
63. What a great imagination.
64. You belong.
65. That's right.
66. Now you've got it!
67. You're catching on.
68. You're on top of it.
69. Nice work!
70. Excellent!
71. That's remarkable.
72. Beautiful!
73. You're precious.
74. Magnificent!

25. Beautiful work.
26. Remarkable job.
27. Nothing can stop you now.
28. You're beautiful.
29. You're one-of-a-kind.
30. You're so creative.
31. Great work!
32. Fantastic job!
33. Phenomenal!
34. You are so important.
35. You figured it out.
36. Hip! Hip! Hooray!
37. You did that very well.
38. Good learning!
39. You're a good listener.
40. You're are so much fun.
41. You're caring.
42. You tried very hard.
43. Wonderful sharing.
44. You're a treasure.
45. Awesome!
46. You're wonderful.
47. You're A-OK!
48. You made my day.
49. Say, "Thank you".
50. You have a great sense of humor.
75. Super work!
76. You're a good friend.
77. You mean a lot to me.
78. That's the best.
79. Give them a big hug.
80. You've discovered the secret.
81. You're spectacular.
82. You're a darling.
83. I like you.
84. You're fantastic.
85. Neat!
86. That's good manners.
87. Bingo!
88. You're growing up.
89. You're getting better.
90. You brighten my day.
91. That's perfect.
92. You're such a joy.
93. You're so kissable.
94. You have a wonderful smile.
95. You make me feel good.
96. You work hard.
97. Good thinking!
98. Good planning!
99. You're a good helper.
100. I like the way you did that.



## “SMALL AND SIMPLE THINGS” ~ Grandparenting across the Miles~

We all know that **giving gifts**, and **spending time together**, help to create the **magic** of the grandparent/grandchild connection.

**However**, long-distance grandparents have **some special challenges** with this – especially as the number of their grandchildren multiplies!

### MONEY? WHO HAS ENOUGH...

- to either travel there and **spend time in person** with every one of them, or
- to **send gifts** on special occasions, **for every one of them?**

The expenses can really mount up, especially if you have twenty grandchildren! But, **1.** you don't have to give big or expensive gifts to **make your grandchild feel special.**

And **2.** you don't have to be there in person to **give them a part of yourself.**

**Given thoughtfully and with love, gifts that we might shrug off as just “little things,” are often the most cherished.**



## A written letter ~ Small and Simple, but Wonderful!

### A LETTER? WHO HAS THE TIME...

-- to write all of the grandchildren regularly?

First of all, how much time would you be giving to this bonding process if they lived in your own town?

Wouldn't you be babysitting, or taking them on memorable excursions with you?

You could **substitute a part of the time you would have spent together**, with letter-writing!

Decide on a set time – like babysitting would be – just a couple of hours a week, to write one or two grandchildren, on a **rotating schedule**. The letters need not be long -- better short, actually -- even **one page!** And they need not be frequent. They should simply be personal and fun.

### HOW VALUABLE IS A LETTER TO A GRANDCHILD?

*“...by small and simple things are great things brought to pass...” ~Alma 37:6*

**Children rarely get mail, and enjoy the thrill of seeing their own names on an envelope.**

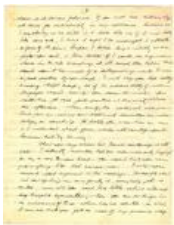
The kids will love opening the mailbox out by the curb with Mom and seeing a letter (which seems like a Christmas present on Christmas morning!), **with their name on it.** A letter is something so personalized, they know it is theirs and theirs alone.

A personal letter lets them know that you're **thinking of them**, and that you are **interested in them** individually.

They will also **feel like they know you**; and your relationship through letters can strengthen them emotionally, socially, spiritually, and educationally.

A letter is **tangible**; a **part of your life**; a **legacy of your love**, which the child can **carry with them** anywhere they go. Your letters to them will be a part of their entire adult lives, and even passed on to their children.

"I recall how excited I would be to receive Grandma's letters. I would find a quiet time in the day to read them, as if I was savoring a fine dessert. Now that Grandma is long gone, her letters bring me such great comfort, as I once again read her stories and can hear Grandma's voice through her writing. Those letters are such a treasure and comfort to me, I now read them to my children and share Grandma's stories. I am excited to see those same types of memories for my own children." - *Susan M.*



"Recently I found a letter written by my grandmother to our family when I was a young mother. In simple terms and in her 95-year-old penmanship, she expressed her love to me and each of my six children. Now, these many years later, the impact of her written words are felt more strongly than when she was alive, because of her sweet example of enduring faithfully to the end. To multiply the impact, this week I e-mailed a scanned copy of the old letter to each of my children so they could show and read it to their children – a simple communication influencing at least three generations." - *Meridian Magazine*

We have come up with fun, yet **simple** ways to send **letters to the grandkids** –

Things that help create an **active relationship** between you and your grandchildren.

**Even when geography separates you, writing letters can make you a part of your grandchild's life.**

And you can give...

## A lifetime treasure, for the cost of a postage stamp!

*“Wherefore, be not weary in well-doing, for ye are laying the foundation of a great work. And out of small things proceedeth that which is great.”*  
~Doctrine and Covenants 64:33

## **BOOKS WE DISPLAYED AT OUR SHARING STATION**

**My Grandma, My Pen Pal**, by Jan Dale Koutsky. This book has some cute visual ideas.

**Creative Grandparenting Across the Miles, Ideas for Sharing Love, Faith, and Family Traditions**, by Patricia L. Fry. This is a small book but seemed to have the most information.

**With Love, Grandma. Letters to Grandchildren**, by Carl B. Smith. Lots of sample scripts for letters, and topics to write about.

**Gotcha, Grandpa! More Letters to Grandchildren**, by Carl B. Smith. This is more of the same type of information. These books also remind us what to expect from each age group, in terms of their development, and how that translates into letter-writing.

**The Long Distance Grandmother, How to Stay Close to Distant Grandchildren**, by Selma Wassermann. This was also a very beautiful, and probably my favorite.

**Long-Distance Grandma, How to Stay Connected with Grandkids Far Away**, by Janet Colsher Teitsort. Lots more fun ideas.

## **OTHER BOOKS (Most books can be found at a discount on book-seller websites.)**

**The LDS Grandparents' Idea Book**, Fay A. Klingler

**Grandparents Don't Just Babysit**, by Ruth Isbister

**Grandparenting in a Changing World**. By Eda LeShan

**The Grandmother Book**. Jan and Betty Southard Stoop

**Grandparent Power!** By Arthur and Sondra Forsyth

**Finding The Right Words**, by J. Beverly Daniel. This small book is perfect for giving quick advice on how to write personal notes and cards. From birthday greetings to well wishes on a new home it's great to have tucked in your desk when you need a bit of inspiration.

**The Pleasures of Staying In Touch - Writing Memorable Letters**, by Jennifer Williams. One of the most beautifully written non-fiction books I have ever read. If this fails to get you up and writing I'm not sure what will. It's that moving. Along with Williams gentle guidance the book also includes many antique letters to further get your juices going.

**Gift of a Letter**, by Alexandra Stoddard. Like the above this is a beautifully written and quite personal account of how letter writing can add such richness to life. As Stoddard explains writing a letter is, "giving the gift of ourselves" and encourages people to "write from your heart" and "express intimate, immediate impressions".