

Grandmas & Grandpas

The holiday season brings the relatives! Have these titles on hand to celebrate those wonderful relationships.



Titles:

A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever by Marla Frazee

First Snow by Emily Arnold McCully

The Hello Goodbye Window by Norton Juster

I Love Saturdays y Domingos by Alma Flor Ada

Little Mama Forgets by Robin Cruise

Monsoon Afternoon by Kashmiria Sheth

My Hippy Grandmother by Reeve Lindbergh

The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant

Extensions:

I have two grannies in our storytime resources – one from the napping house and the old lady who swallowed a fly. Either could pay a visit in a different guise. And could help with narrative play and vocabulary building (see below).

Easy Craft:

Make photo frames from simple cardboard cut-outs and old puzzle pieces, macaroni or other decorations glued on, and/or draw family pictures to share with the grandparents later. Or try the penguin craft in *A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever*.

Simple Play:

Read *The Relatives Came*, and ask the kids to lie down on their story mats and imagine trying to sleep with “*all that new breathing*” noise in the room - sure to be a giggly good time.

Poetry Corner: There are so many family poetry collections. Choose a favorite to share. Try *Mothers, Fathers, Sisters, Brothers: A Collection of Family Poems* by Mary Ann Hoberman or *Family Reunion* by Marilyn Singer.

Early Literacy Skills

Language and vocabulary: Invite kids to share the words they use for Grandma, Nana, Gramma, Grammie; for Grandpa, Pops, Grandpa, Gramps, Poppy and so on. Are there other words parents can explore at home that only their family uses? In our house we don't talk to the dog "at table," and we pick up a single "clo," meaning one piece of clothing. Language is a growing thing, delight in the power of your family's words.

Phonological Awareness: Where does that "d" disappear to in our dear Grand – words. If your listeners are too young for this concept explore rhyming pairs, grandma/granpa, Nonna/Poppa and, "Monsoon Afternoon."

Letter knowledge: "G" is Grand, and Great. Do any kids have Great Grandparents?

Print Awareness: Look at the wiggly script on the cover of "My Hippie Grandmother." Compare to the stocky letters they usually see. We play with letter shapes and case so many times – **SHARE THE FACT**, *play with it.*

Narrative Skills: The way we live with our grandparents, with them, across the continents and so on is a great source for story. How and when and where do we see them? Some grandparents record stories for their grandkids to listen to when they can't be with them. Can parents record kids telling their stories of their grandparents?

Print Motivation: Photo albums, online or printed, are treasure books for growing readers. Fill one with family members that kids can *read* over and over.