

PARENTING INFANTS AND TODDLERS TODAY

Grandparents Matter: Key Findings From a 2009 National Parent Survey

Findings from a national survey of 1,615 parents of children from birth to 3 years, recently conducted by Hart Research for ZERO TO THREE, confirm the very important influence that grandparents have on how their grandchildren are raised.

You share your wisdom and love in a variety of ways. You are the primary person parents turn to regularly for guidance on child rearing. Many of you are helping to care for your grandchildren, and some of you are the primary caregiver for your grandchildren.

Grandparents Are a Key Source of Information

Forty-seven percent of all parents and 53% of parents under age 25 regularly turn to their mother or mother-in-law for information about child development and parenting. Some grandparents have observed that this can be a challenge, because approaches to child rearing have changed so much over the past 20 years.

- **Learn about the latest, science-based information on nurturing young children's healthy development** designed specifically for grandparents and other nonparental caregivers by going to www.zerotothree.org/site/PageServer?pagename=key_ffn
- **Check out *The Grandparent Guide* by Arthur Kornhaber**, which contains the latest information for over 50 grandparent-related topics derived from over 30 years of research and experience. *The Grandparent Guide* (Contemporary Books) answers questions that both modern parents and grandparents ask: www.grandparenting.org

Millions of Parents of Babies and Toddlers Rely on Grandparents for Regular Child Care

This was reported by 23% of all parents, 27% of African American parents, and 21% of parents with household incomes of \$100,000 or more.

Providing regular care for your grandchild(ren) can provide great pleasure to you. It is also a gift you give to your grandchildren as well as to your own child. However, caring for young children can be quite demanding and stressful—emotionally, physically, and financially. In recognition and appreciation of the important job you are doing, many organizations have developed a range of resources to support you, including the following:

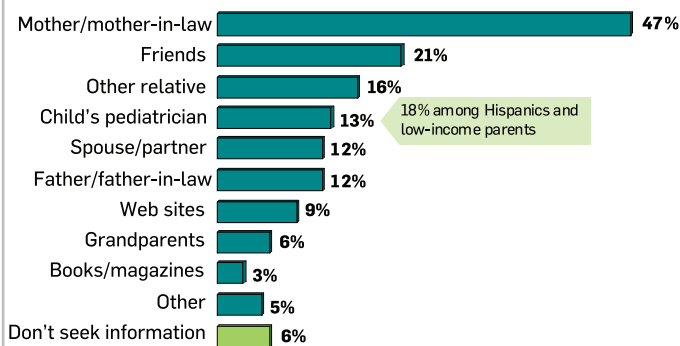
- **Grandcare Support Locator**
This online tool, developed by the AARP Foundation, identifies national, state, and local groups, organizations, and programs that can offer support to grandparents (age 50 and above) raising



Photo: Victoria Prieto

Family Is an Important Day-to-Day Source of Information

In your day-to-day life, to whom do you usually turn for information about child development and parenting?



National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families

To view the full report, go to: www.zerotothree.org/parentsurvey

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grandchildren. Grandparents enter their city, state, and zip code to find programs that can offer them a variety of services: www.giclocalsupport.org

- **Benefits QuickLINK**

This online tool, also a product of the AARP Foundation, helps grandparents raising their grandchildren to identify public benefits for which they are eligible. This tool includes benefits for adults and for the children they are raising: www.aarp.org/quicklink

- **Kinship Care Resource Kit**

This document, by the Children's Defense Fund, offers information in an easy-to-read question-and-answer format on the challenges and resources available to grandparents raising their grandchildren: www.childrensdefense.org/child-research-data-publications/data/kinship-care-resource-kit-helping-grandparents-relatives-raising-children.pdf

Addressing Challenges in Sharing the Care

There are so many benefits of grandparents caring for their grandchild(ren). Parents trust you, you have life and child-rearing experience, and you share similar cultural beliefs and values, just to

name a few. However, it is not uncommon for there to be challenges in sharing the care with your child. The boundaries can be a little fuzzy, and there is often more emotional intensity among family members than with nonfamily child care providers. To help you establish good communication with your child, consider the following resources:

REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

Building Effective Communication With Parents

www.zerotothree.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ter_key_effective_communication_parents

Communication Tool

This resource is designed to help you and your child share your observations and ideas about your grandchildren so that together you can provide the best care for your little ones.

www.zerotothree.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ter_key_caregiver_parent_tools



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