

## Generational Homeschooling

It has been said that experience is the best teacher. As a homeschooling parent, we want nothing but the very best for our children. It doesn't have to cost a lot and rarely do the best educational experiences come from a text book.

Grandparents can be excellent teachers for our children. They can provide a living account of many subjects that we are teaching.

I can still remember my Great Grandmother telling me about the day she read that the Titanic had sunk. She was 8 years old and among other things, she could still remember the sadness that she felt over the loss of so many lives. You can't get a more vivid history lesson.

Because each Grandparent is unique, there is no way to provide an accurate description of what the Grandparent's role in homeschooling should be. The fact is, it will vary from family to family. The hope is, the Grandparent will be willing and able to participate.

That being said, distance and loss of mobility should not hinder a willing Grandparent to participate in the homeschooling experience.

Some simple ways a Grandparent can help are to write letters to their Grandchildren (encouraging them to in turn, read and write) and tell their Grandchildren stories of their childhood (teaching them their own history).

A Grandparent could also give special books to children as gifts (again promoting literacy) or take children on a nature walk. They can take the opportunity to read to their Grandchildren or have their Grandchildren read to them (even over the phone). They might even consider taking children to a museum exhibit, or just to the park to give the parent a chance to get caught up on school planning or household chores.

If a Grandparent is able to do so, there aren't many parents who would refuse financial assistance from Grandparents when purchasing school books or supplies for an upcoming year.

There is no reason why Grandparents can't take part in the teaching process. If not for core subjects, why not the electives? Grandparents can draw on their own experiences and hobbies. Perhaps, your parents are skilled at woodworking, knitting or gardening. My Mom is an artist. My children would gladly give up a beautiful afternoon in the park with their friends for an art lesson with their Grandmother! They love to hear her newest tip and she's creating enduring memories within each of them.

One of the wonderful benefits of homeschooling is being able to provide a well rounded, broad based education.

Explore the many opportunities that Grandparents can provide to your school at home!