



Grandparents raising grandchildren face unique physical, emotional, financial and logistical issues.

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Child Abuse Prevention Fund
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Grandparents parenting again

Grandparents who are primary caretakers of grandchildren

One in 10 grandparents are the primary caretakers of a grandchild at some time in their lives. Between 1990 and 1998, the number of grandparents raising grandchildren rose by 53 percent. Grandparents raising grandchildren is nothing new, but has become an increased focus to the public.

Grandparents raise grandchildren for a variety of reasons most often related to problems or challenges the child's biological parents face. Some of these problems or challenges that cause grandparents to become primary caretakers are teen pregnancy, substance abuse,

unemployment, incarceration, child abuse and neglect, death and mental health problems.

Grandparents who raise their grandchildren can find the experience not only rewarding, but also challenging. Grandparents face unique physical, emotional, financial and logistical issues because they are caught in a triangle among themselves, biological parents and the grandchild.

What grandparents can do

- Take care of yourself. Being a parent for the second time can be hard work. Make your health a priority and learn to handle stress.
- Join a local support group. Meeting other grandparents that face similar challenges can help you resolve your obstacles
- Learn about your legal rights. Seek advice from a lawyer who specializes in family law.
- Get information on financial assistance. Many programs are available for grandparents such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income, earned income tax, Medicare, food stamps, child support and public housing. For more information, contact your local social services department .

Wisconsin Resources

- AARP Grandparent Information Center
(800) 434-3410
- Wisconsin Bureau of Aging and Long Term Care Resources
(608) 266-2536
- Grandparents Rights of Wisconsin
(414) 535-1218

Internet Resources

- www.capfund.org
- www.grandsplace.com
- www.aarp.org
- www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/grgp