

Modern Grandparents

In the past we have written about why it's important to stay connected to your grandchildren and the benefits that grandchildren bring into your life. Here we delve deeper into modern technologies and how to utilise them to maintain a relationship with your grandchildren.

Whether your grandchildren live far away, or you can't see them regularly, it's still important to stay in touch with them. Grandparents can play such a special and unique role in a child's life. They can:-

- provide endless love, time, stability and connection in a constantly changing world
- offer an alternative perspective and a great amount of experience to help guide young children through life
- show new ways to learn, by sharing their own skills and experiences, and by being a part of new adventures.

Using the latest technology can be a great way to connect with them at their level. Today's grandchildren have grown up in a digital age, with a great deal of technology around them. The way they communicate, the way they play and learn is often technology related. They are unlikely to change this easily, so being a relevant part of their lives will often require us to adapt to using these new technologies.

Video calls

You may normally rely on personal visits and phone calls for your family and friends. However, in these modern times the younger generations are using video calls from computers and hand held devices as a regular form of communication.

Initially, you may need some help with video calling, so don't be afraid to ask someone for support – even your grandchildren!

You may be surprised to know that once set-up, many video calling platforms are actually relatively simple to use. Video calls are a quick and easy solution for staying connected, and due to the visual display, even the youngest of grandchildren are keen to get involved.

Some popular video calling platforms include Zoom, Skype, FaceTime, Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp.

Images on social media

Taking photos from your everyday lives and sharing them is a great way to keep your grandchildren and family and friends up to date with you and your life. Photo memories also act as a time capsule that you and your grandkids can go back to again and again.



You can use privacy settings to limit photo viewing access to only the family and friends you choose. Private groups can also be created, where everyone in the group can share with one another. Facebook and Instagram are the most popular platforms for image sharing. If your grandchildren are younger, you can text the images to their parents to share with them instead.

Text and messaging

Have you tried calling your grandchildren on the phone to find that they don't answer? Keep phone and video-calling if your grandchildren are responding, but if not, it might be time to try regular texting and messaging to connect with your grandkids. To maintain the contact, try to engage them with regular and relevant texts and messages. Phone texting is the best and easiest way to start with this contact with your grandchildren. If you are also on social media, you can message through Facebook Messenger, Instagram or other messaging platforms.

Keep the old ways alive

Even while trying these modern forms of communication, it's still fun to go back to traditional methods from time to time. Send letters or packages to your grandchildren. They will love it and probably hold onto them as keepsakes. You can include photos, handmade cards or even gifts in a letter or package. This tradition will create memories that they will always remember.

To start, don't hesitate to ask for help, from family or friends who are a bit more tech savvy. Once you have got the hang of it, it is much less daunting than you may think. Staying in touch using modern technology is becoming easier and easier.

Sources:

australianoverfifties.com.au/grand-parenting-in-the-digital-age/
www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/5-reasons-why-grandparents-are-important/
masandpas.com/the-importance-of-grandparents-in-a-childs-life/
www.goodhousekeeping.com/electronics/g32187503/best-video-chat-apps/