



## RELATIONSHIP-FOCUSED FAMILY ENGAGEMENT FOR GRANDPARENTS

Family engagement is created from relationships between caregivers, helpers, and communities in support of a child. Research shows that when families and helpers build strong partnerships, children learn and grow. The Pennsylvania Family Engagement Birth through College, Career, Community Ready Framework offers a resource for promoting effective family engagement. Here, the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media at Saint Vincent College builds on this tool and shares relationship-focused considerations for grandparents as they develop strong partnerships with helpers.

### Your Grandchild Is Lucky To Have You

Sometimes it might feel like we have to do everything just right to best support our children. What a child needs more than anything is a caring adult who loves them. It is your being there and loving the child that matters most of all.

### Trust Yourself

You bring a wealth of knowledge to family



**“There is beauty in parenting a second time around because you’re more assertive and confident.”**

**- Grandparent**

engagement relationships. You can advocate for your grandchild by asking questions and sharing what you know about the child's needs. For example, you might share parts of your family's situation with the helper or offer thoughts on how the child is reacting to their experience.

### You Are Not Alone

You may find other families, grandparents, a school counselor, a teacher, or community organizations where people share a similar experience or that can point you in the direction of resources. Building relationships with others in the community may be helpful for you and the child.

