



Learning together to enrich family life & relationships

Family Matters Institute

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Joint research project carried out by Family Matters Institute and University of Hertfordshire
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Grandparents Research

Our research aims to explore relationships between grandparents and grandchildren in family life today. The individual information gathered from this questionnaire will only be seen by the research team and will not be divulged to others.

Family life today is often quite complicated and grandchildren may not always be biologically related to you. In this questionnaire we would like you to include any whom you recognise as your grandchildren.

If more space is needed to give comments feel free to attach a separate page:

- 1. How many grandchildren do you have and what are their ages and gender? (e.g. enter below 'boy' or 'girl' and their age so if you have a girl aged 3 it will look like example 1.)
If you have more than 10 grandchildren please use the 10 youngest.

Grandchild	Example 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
a) Gender	Girl										
b) Age	3										

Please use the same reference numbers for your grandchildren throughout the questionnaire.

- 2. Do any of your grandchildren currently live with you, in the same house? (Please tick)

- a) Yes
- b) No

- 3. Have any of your grandchildren ever lived with you? (Please tick and 'if yes' insert number of grandchildren)

- a) No
- b) Yes

If 'yes' please give a reason

If 'No' please go to question 5

- 4. If 'Yes', how many of them? (Please tick)

- a) 1
- b) 2
- c) 3
- d) More than 3

5. Not including any grandchildren who live with you now, how many of your other grandchildren live: (please insert number)

- a) Within 5 miles of you?
- b) Within 10 miles of you?
- c) Further than 10 miles from you?
- d) Overseas

6. How often do you have contact with your grandchildren? (Please tick)

Grandchild	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
a) Daily										
b) Weekly										
c) Monthly										
d) Once in six months										
e) Once a year										
f) Less then once a year										
g) Not at all										

7. Are there any of your grandchildren whom you rarely see: (Please tick)

- a) Yes
- b) No

If 'No' please go to question 9

8. If 'Yes' is this:

- a) Due to distance
- b) Due to family breakdown
- c) Other

Please detail 'other'

9. How much time on average do you spend with your grandchildren at each visit? (Please tick)

Grandchild	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
a) Less than an hour										
b) An hour										
c) Few hours										
d) Day										
e) Few days										
f) A week or more										

10. Do you take any of your grandchildren out for day trips? (Please tick)

Grandchild	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
a) Sport activities										
b) Theatre/Cinema										
c) Picnics										
d) Family/friends' visits										
e) Other										

Please detail 'other'

11. Do you undertake any childcare responsibilities for any of your grandchildren? (Please tick and insert number of grandchildren)

- a) Yes
- b) No

If 'No' please go to question 13

12. If 'Yes', what kinds of child care? (Please tick)

- a) Look after the children at night
- b) Take care of them while their parents work
- c) Collect the children from school
- d) Take them to different activities/lessons.
- e) Other

Please detail 'other'

13. How often do you take care of your grandchildren? (Please insert number of grandchildren you care for)

- a) Frequently
- b) Sometimes
- c) Rarely

14. Do you help support your grandchildren financially? (Please tick and insert number)

- a) Yes
- b) No

If 'No' go to question 16

15. If 'Yes', please specify, do you support with: (Please tick)

- a) School fees
- b) Clothing
- c) Holidays
- d) Other

Please detail 'other'

16. How would you describe your relationship with your grandchildren? (Please tick)

Grandchild	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
a) Very close										
b) Close										
c) Fairly close										
d) Not very close										
e) Not close at all										

17. Do you find that any of your grandchildren talk to you freely about personal things involving? (Please tick)

Grandchild	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
a) No they don't										
b) School										
c) Friends										
d) Family										
e) Sport										
f) Other interests										

Please detail 'other interests'

18. Have any of your grandchildren ever talked to you about something they are worried about? (Please tick)

- a) No
- b) Yes

If 'yes' please detail.....

19. What sort of family best describes the situation your grandchildren are living in? (Please tick only one box for each child)

Grandchild	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
a) Married										
b) Cohabiting										
c) Lone parent										
d) Joint residence										
e) Grown up and independent										
f) Foster parent										
g) Step parent										
f) Other										

Please detail 'other'

20. Any family today can experience problems and children often face conflicts between their parents. Have any of your grandchildren experienced any kind of breakdown in their parents' relationship? (Please tick)

Grandchild	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
a) Yes										
b) No										

If 'No' go to question 22

21. If 'Yes', were you able to give them special help or support? (Please tick)

- a) Yes
- b) No

If 'Yes', please give details.....

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22. Have any of your grandchildren experienced a change in family structure due to natural causes? (Please tick)

Grandchild	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
a) Death of a parent/carer										
b) Serious illness of parent/carer										
c) Long-term disability of a parent/carer										
d) Other										

Please detail 'other'

If 'No' go to question 24

23 If 'Yes', were you able to give them special help or support? (Please tick)

- a) Yes
- b) No

If 'Yes', please give details.....

24. Did you experience any difficulty in maintaining contact with your grandchildren due to change of circumstances in question 20 and 22? (Please tick)

Grandchild	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
a) Yes										
b) No										

If 'Yes', please describe.....

For statistical reasons only, please give us some details about yourself.

25. Are you responding: (Please tick)

- a) As a grandmother
- b) As a grandfather
- c) Jointly

26. In family life today grandparents can be as young as 30 years old, so it would be helpful to us if you would please let us know which age group you are in: (Please tick)

- a) 30 to 40
- b) 41 to 50
- c) 51 to 60
- d) 61 to 70
- e) 71 to 80
- f) Over 81

27. Are you retired? (Please tick)

- a) Yes
- b) No

28. Do you work? (Please tick)

- a) No
- b) Paid full-time
- c) Paid part-time
- d) Voluntary
- e) Other

Please describe 'other'.....

29. How would you describe your Ethnic Origin? (Please tick one box)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| a) Bangladeshi | <input type="checkbox"/> | e) Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Black-African | <input type="checkbox"/> | f) Pakistani | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Black-African-Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> | g) White | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> | h) Other..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |

30. Please feel free to give any additional information that could be helpful for this research:

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We might like to follow up some of the questionnaires in this study by talking to grandparents on a confidential basis. If you do not mind being contacted by one of our team please give us your preferred contact details

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

Tel.....

E-mail.....

Fax.....

If you choose to give your contact details they will be kept confidential and we will separate them from the questionnaire

Thank you for your help and participation in this important research

Please return the questionnaire in the envelope provided by **20th July 2007**.