



## Fun Things For You and Your Grandkids

*Whether you live at home or in a retirement community, time with your grandchildren is something to be cherished. Kids like knowing they can always count on certain things when they visit Grandma and Grandpa. But since children are constantly active, you have to plan activities that will satisfy both generations. Here are some hints from my own experience:*

- My granddaughter loves to play "Performance" and we take turns singing, dancing or playing one of her instruments for an imaginary audience. It's even better when her mother is the audience.
- Card or board games are a big favorite. We played "Chutes and Ladders" six times, then "Memory" five times, then "Cranium Conga" two times and then "War" and "Old Maid" until I hungered for time off to prepare lunch.
- Hide and Seek around the house is a winner. If you're tired, you can rest for a bit and she thinks you are looking for her.
- The other day we spent an hour going over the most recent photo album in which my granddaughter starred shamelessly. Of course, she wanted to see it again and again.
- It would be nice to have a monthly movie festival with my granddaughter, showing a new movie each time since I have every Disney movie ever created but she only wants to see Fantasia, Winnie the Poo and the Three Little Pigs. Since she wants me to sit with her, I've seen each of those movies no less than ten times. I did introduce her to the delights of "Dancing With the Stars" last week and she wanted to see it again the next morning. We practiced some of the moves we saw on the show during our next "Performance" game.
- Though she can read perfectly well on her own, my granddaughter still loves to have me read to her. Sometimes we read five or six books at a sitting and always two books before bedtime. I noticed that she copies my oral reading techniques and puts in emphasis and varied voices when she reads aloud.



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- While we read, my granddaughter holds onto a special fuzzy and cuddly toy that is always waiting for her at my home. It gives her comfort and security and is a symbol of my everlasting love for her.
- I chauffeured her to a week of Magic Camp last summer and acted as her assistant when she performed the tricks she learned for her parents and her Grandpa because we were the only ones who shared the secret of doing the tricks properly.
- I have a collection of arts and crafts activities that I put out on the table and sit with her while she finger paints, water colors, crafts play dough or cranks out countless ever-improving drawings. Of course, she insists I create alongside her so we do it together.
- Finally, we have a hummingbird feeder placed so my granddaughter can see the birds from her dining room chair and she shrieks with glee whenever a bird appears.

If you haven't tried any of these activities with your own grandchildren, feel free to appropriate the idea. You'll have so much fun together that you'll build an everlasting bond they will cherish throughout their lives.

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