

Strategies for Assisting Grandparented Children

Feeling	Strategies with Child	Classroom Interventions
Grief & Loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - acknowledge child's losses - develop ways to express feelings - help child to accept grandparent's new role - discuss loss of parent and grandparent - discuss loss of parent and grandparent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - design classroom experiences (e.g., role plays, play experiences) to allow expression of feelings - provide child with consistent access to caring adults - team child with a "buddy"
Guilt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide experiences to enhance self-esteem - assist child in releasing responsibility for parents' actions - provide abundant praise and reinforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - plan opportunities for child's success - offer options for child to help others - design lessons focusing on owning responsibility
Fear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide consistency in environment - maintain access to consistent caregivers - establish routines for separation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide engaging activities during times of separation - keep groups small - provide children with opportunities to become very familiar with school environment
Embarrassment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assist in developing answers to questions about home - assess child's "differentness" and communicate with custodial grandparent - provide access to other grandparent models 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - teach lessons focusing on diversity - utilize other grandparents in classroom roles - constant sensitivity to differences (e.g., using the term "Caregivers Night" vs. "Parents' Night," displaying picture of diverse family types, etc.)
Anger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - model appropriate expression of anger - provide assurance that feeling angry is OK - teach self-recognition of triggering "cues" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide varied outlets for expression - design classroom experiences focusing on anger as a normal emotion - solicit professional referral, if necessary