

# Grandparenting Interfaith Grandchildren

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## Ten Tips for Grandparents

**#1 The most important thing is your relationship with your children and grandchildren, more important than the religion of the grandchildren. You may need to let go of fantasies you had of what your life as a grandparent would be like.**

## Tip #2

**Treat your child, their partner and goals for their children with respect.** Check with your grandchildren's parents regarding anything you want to do of a religious nature. Make sure it doesn't conflict with their goals for their children.

## Tip #3

**Have a loving relationship with your grandchildren.** It will predispose them to think well of your values and your religion. That loving relationship is the best thing you can do to help set the stage for transmitting your values to your grandchildren.

## Tip #4

**Display your Judaism.** There should be something in your home that shows that your home is Jewish – make these things visible and share their meanings with your grandchildren.

## Tip #5

**Get rid of your assumptions about other faiths.**

Especially if your grandchild is being raised outside of Judaism, explore the meaning of religion to them.

Create a climate where they can be equally curious about Judaism. You can still share your stories about your childhood and your memories, and that includes religious holidays, lifecycle ceremonies, etc.

## Tip #6

**Let them know Judaism is important to you and why.** Let your actions show what is important to you. If you want them to care about being Jewish, they need to know why. Let them hear how Judaism works in your life and why it has significance for you.

## Tip #7

**Be honest about your doubts and complaints about Judaism.** Judaism is not a religion of belief. We have a long history of sages and rabbis who were doubters. Let them know that doubting is more than acceptable in Judaism. Let them know your doubts and complaints.



## Tip #8

**Have fun being Jewish.** Find ways to really celebrate with friends. Being Jewish is more than liturgy and synagogue attendance. It is a way of life with rich traditions, ways of cooking, and humor.

## Tip #9

**Never compete with the other grandparents.** Make them your friends. Invite them to your holiday celebrations and make sure they understand what is going on, particularly if the grandchildren are being raised as Jews. Go to their celebrations when you are invited.

## Tip #10

**Show respect for all religions, especially in front of your grandchildren. Never belittle or make fun of any practice or belief. If you do, your grandchildren may choose to avoid all religions because they remember it as a topic of conflicting loyalties in the family.**

## Contact Us

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