

# **Volunteer Leader Training Guide**

## **Being a Positive Influence With Grandchildren**

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### **Suggestions for Teaching**

1. Get your heart right (see **The Condition of Our Heart** handout).
  - “Actions speak louder than words.” What does that mean?
  - Something matters even more than actions: The condition of our heart!
  - When our heart is right, we will do right by children.
2. Help the grandchildren feel loved (consider reading *Miss Tizzy*).
  - Make time to have fun together.
    - What is something that each of your grandchildren loves to do?
    - How can you support them or join them in their favorite activities?
  - Celebrate their lives.
    - What do you enjoy most about your grandchildren?
    - Tell them you love them.
    - Cherish their photos, art, letters, etc. [business cards, statuettes (Kevin Jones)].
  - Serve together.
    - How can you help your grandchildren learn to serve and bless the lives of others?
3. Strengthen their family.
  - Support and encourage their parents (*Extension resources on marriage and parenting*).
  - Help each person know and enlarge his or her gifts.
4. Tell them stories that help them discover their roots.
  - Share stories from your life and your ancestors.
  - Share documents, pictures and memorabilia.

**For volunteer leaders:** If you teach this lesson or share the ideas with others, you can briefly state the main point, illustrate it with an example and then invite others to share their ideas. By encouraging such sharing, you are likely to easily fill the time and have a very rich discussion.

**For grandparents who are primary caregivers:** Find many more ideas in the new U of A Extension curriculum – *Adventures in Grandparenting* – available through your county agent.