

CARE TO THE NEST

Exploring the role of grandparents during the COVID-19 pandemic



CORE AREA ONE: Spending time with grandchildren

98% 

reported they have spent considerably less time with their grandchildren over the course of the pandemic despite childcare bubbles

 **25%**

98% reported they used to have grandchildren for regular sleepovers this dropped to 25%

 **72%**

felt their own enjoyment is important when they spend time with their grandchildren whether virtually or in real time. Virtual connections were not felt to be as rewarding as actual physical closeness was missing

 **70%**

used mobile phones to keep in touch with only 10% writing letters

 **12%**

had not seen their grandchildren at all during the pandemic

94% 

regularly gave gifts to their grandchildren to support their interests and education and this had increased during the pandemic

ACTIVITY	% PRE-COVID	% DURING COVID-19	% REDUCTION*
RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES			
Outdoor play	95	57	38
Exercising or playing sport	92	38	54
Eating out	95	23	73
Visiting a library or museum	99	6	93
Going on holiday	97	17	79
Going for a 3 mile + walk	84	40	44
Visiting the cinema, zoo or pleasure park	99	13	86
Watching TV or playing online games	90	56	34
Indoor activities like painting or cooking	91	40	51
Sleepover	98	25	73
CHORE-BASED ACTIVITIES			
Household chores	89	40	49
Tending to garden	86	49	37
Outside & garden-based jobs	88	54	34
Car Washing	78	48	30
Shopping	96	17	69

CORE AREA TWO: Providing childcare pre-COVID

33%+ Over 33% reported providing **regular** childcare i.e. daily or weekly



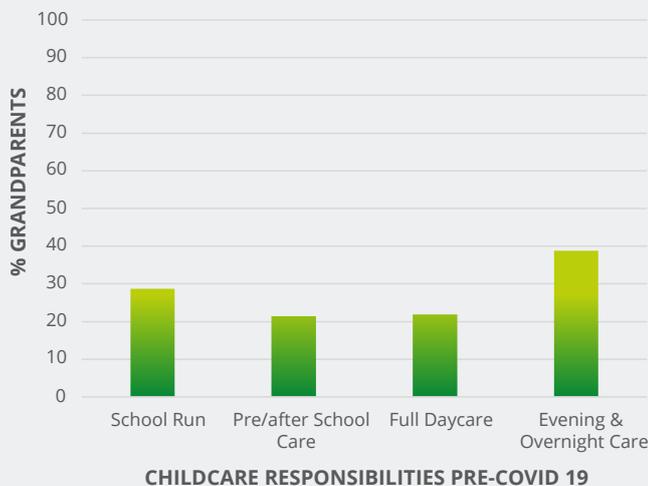
The more childcare responsibilities grandparents undertook the **less successful** they felt they were



The more childcare responsibilities grandparents undertook the **more burdensome** they found it

70%+ Over 70% of grandparents felt it was **important that they enjoyed** their grandparenting responsibilities

70%+ Over 70% felt they played a **central role** in the everyday lives of their grandchildren

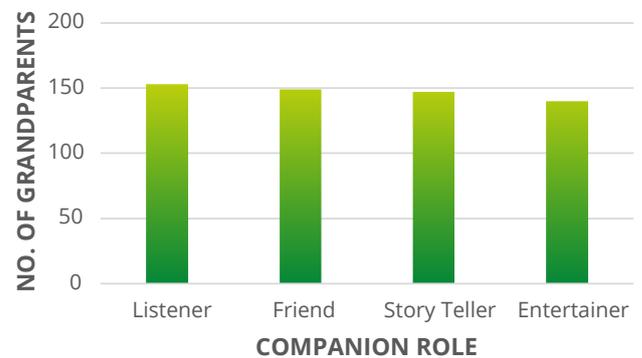


CORE AREA THREE: Impact of grandparenting relationship

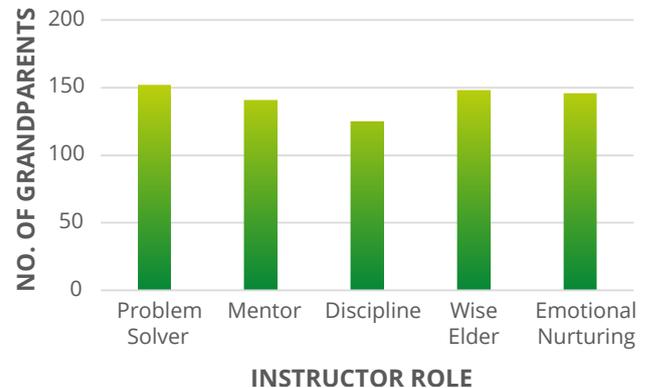
Grandparents saw themselves as:

- 1. Practical supporter** (including financial support, providing transport and health advice)
- 2. Companion supporter** (including listener, friend, story-teller and entertainer)
- 3. Instructional supporter** (including problem solver, mentor, disciplinarian, wise elder and emotional nurturer).

Grandparents strongly identified with their role as Companion Supporter



Grandparents saw themselves as strong supporters of their grandchildren's overall wellbeing



Grandparents also considered their role as wise elder and felt able to hold important conversations with grandchildren

VERY CONFIDENT:

89%

discussing covid-19

92%

discussing unkind or hurtful behaviour

93%

dealing with unacceptable behaviour

LESS CONFIDENT:

34%

discussing death and dying

27%

discussing their own health