



10 Things Professionals Should Know About Grandfamilies

A one-page PEI practice guide for schools, health services, employers and community organizations.

- 1 Kinship care is broader than grandparents.**
A child may be raised by a grandparent, aunt, uncle, adult sibling, cousin, family friend or another trusted person.
- 2 Do not assume the caregiver has formal legal authority.**
Some families have court orders, guardianship or GACP. Others are caring for a child informally.
- 3 Ask who actually provides the day-to-day care.**
Forms and conversations that only ask for a parent can miss the person responsible for school, health, transportation and routines.
- 4 Privacy matters.**
Do not ask the caregiver or child to explain family trauma in public, in front of unrelated staff or simply to satisfy curiosity.
- 5 A child can love a parent and still need another caregiver.**
Avoid language that forces the child to choose sides or treats the parent as the child's identity.
- 6 Behaviour may communicate stress, grief or trauma.**
Attendance, concentration, anger, sleep problems or withdrawal can reflect disrupted caregiving rather than simple non-compliance.
- 7 Older caregivers may be navigating systems that changed since they last parented.**
Explain digital portals, school processes, health forms and benefits without assuming prior familiarity.
- 8 Financial strain is common even when the family appears stable.**
Ask privately about fees, transportation, equipment, school costs, child care and other barriers.
- 9 One reliable contact person can make a major difference.**
Reduce the number of times a caregiver has to retell the same family history to different staff.
- 10 Include caregivers in service design.**
Grandfamilies know where systems break down. Ask what would make the service easier to use and safer for the child.

GACP = Grandparent and Alternative Care Provider Program

Use plain language: parent, guardian, caregiver or the child's trusted adult. Learn more at grandfamiliesinc.com/educators-professionals.html