



GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN TRUST NZ

Grandparents and Kincare NZ

National Office Newsletter: www.grg.org.nz

To: Support Group Co-ordinators, GRG Members, Kincarers, Community Organisations and others.

From: NZ National Office Convenor. October 2010 :

Data base: 4498 Family Caregiver members.

Tena Koutou, Talofa Lava, Kia Orana, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Malo e Lelei, Bula Vinaka, Taloha Ni, Kam Na Mauri, Greetings to all.

Apologies:

In last newsletter: Children in Care report had incorrectly been associated with the Families Commissioner. The Children's Commissioner, John Angus, released this report.



Are you struggling?

Grandchildren arrived with little clothing, needing bedding etc: Or you simply do not have enough money to make ends meet:

Many places offer cheap clothing, goods etc. Search in you area's for Birthright, Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul organisations as they may be able to assist you. Op shops are a great source of cheap clothing.

School Fees and uniforms: Work & Income may be able to assist but advance may be recoverable.

Talk to the school office ask to pay off school fee's weekly in small amounts, ask if they have second hand uniforms or lost property that has not been claimed.

Food Banks: Food vouchers may be obtainable from W & I. Many organisations may also assist you with a food parcel. St Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army or Churches, and City Mission are good places to start, there may be more in your community we do not know about, you could always phone CAB and ask them.

Introducing our newest Field Officer: Diana East.

Diana completed research in 2003 for Council on the Ageing Queensland Inc on issues impacting on grandparents raising their grandchildren full-time and is delighted to now be working with the GRG Trust. Having been a community development worker for 35 years in NZ, Australia and the Cook Islands, she has worked alongside many different groups, assisting them to build on their strengths and skills in order to resourcefully meet group and individual needs. Many years of working with mental health consumers and carers means that she has a very good (non-clinical) understanding of a wide range of mental health issues. Having herself facilitated self help support groups she has also mentored and provided training for facilitators of a diversity of other such groups. Diana is confident to talk with a wide range of people in order to raise the profile of the GRG Trust. She relocated to Wellington in May of this year to be close to her whanau and six mokopuna. She is also a JP.

The GRG Trust Board warmly welcomes Diana to our team and she joins Alison and Nola our GRG Field Officers.

Free Caregiver training:

We let you know that the National Caregiver Training website is now fully operational. After some months of difficulty you are now able to enrol yourself or your caregivers into our courses through the course calendar again. This should hopefully make it a great deal easier for you, and for us in processing your applications.

The website is: www.caregivertraining.org.nz

I would like to remind you that we like to receive as much information as possible. This includes stating the organisation you are from, and whether you are making the application on behalf of someone else. Cell phone numbers and email addresses allow us to communicate any last minute changes, and addresses allow us to send confirmation letters and certificates.

Kind regards,

Matt de Wit: Programme Administrator: National Caregiver Training Programme

Grand's/Kin and children's voices.



Who painted the Sky?

I was lying in bed and glanced at the clock 6.30am, a few more minutes then I would have to get up. I heard his little 5 year old feet bounding down the hall and with a giant leap he was upon my bed.

“Grandma, Grandma” he exclaimed gleefully, “look someone has painted the sky” I opened my blurry eyes and low and behold it did look like someone had painted the sky! Ribbons of green, blue, yellow and orange stretched horizontally across the sky with bright pink moving into a pale pink as it reached higher in the sky and changed into something that looked like fairy dust falling down. Together we sat there looking at Gods artwork in awe, bet I know what his morning news was about at school that day.

*Nan D**

Well I Never:

The Grandchildren and I live on a small life style block and are as self sufficient as possible.

This is a new experience for me and we are all learning together. We have two turkeys, a couple of ducks and many chickens and geese. The turkeys and ducks have been named by the children and are close to our little home. As one knows spring has arrived and mother nature, being Mother Nature, she is preparing the female birds for the next chapter, the chicks. Mother duck named Spikette I might add, has made a nest in the veggie patch right under the kitchen window, the ducks and turkey's free range at our place.



Spikette had laid 4 eggs; I was washing the morning dishes I watched as female turkey called Tina wondered up to Spikette's nest, which she had wondered away from. Tina poked her beak in ferreted around and promptly sat down. I waited until she moved off and low and behold there in the middle of the nest on top of duck eggs was one largish turkey egg! Tina had cracked the shells of 2 of the duck eggs which I removed, then in waddled Spikette who promptly sat on all eggs. Checking later in the day I saw Spikie had laid more eggs. So we are going to have one confused turkey chick or may be not. What a naughty mother turkey, but in finding the humour in all of our situations it somehow seems appropriate! I wonder if birth mother turkey will want to claim chick back after all the hard work is done! At least she did not lay the egg in my bed! Thankful for small mercies am I.

Gran Fran

A Grandchild Speaks:

How can you stand there and watch me cry, while I am trying to figure out if you love me or not.

I watch helplessly, Mum, shaking and crying behind a curtain while you are beating my sister over and over again, until she is on the floor screaming in pain.

I woke in the middle of the night and wonder where my Mum and Dad have gone as they are not in the house, it is dark and I climb on a chair to put the light on, the lights do not work. I crawl into to my sister's bed and hug her tightly, she hugs me back and we comfort ourselves crying silently.

How can you stand to watch us screaming daily with the pain that Dad is causing us? How can you think that this is alright? We wake up hungry and all there is to eat is sugar, we spilt it and you whack us violently. We were hungry and you just walked away leaving us screaming. All we ever wanted was a real Mum and Dad. We were only 4 and 5. *Now 15*

Sending everyone a big hug:

Just because it seems so many of us are going through some rough times right now.

We all share having severely dysfunctional children, if not additional family members.

Although some have lost their children through accidents, I know.

We all share raising a young child when we should be concentrating on ourselves for the first time in our life.

We all share the financial stresses of raising g/c on limited retirement incomes.

We all share trying to raise a child in a "non-traditional" family - the social stigma.

We all mourn for our children and rejoice with our grandchildren.

We all have soooooo much in common! My heart hurts today for all of us!

Nanny K

I cried when I read the words of “Grandma” in the letter entitled “In Safe Hands Now,” published in your August newsletter. I, too, had a huge battle to help my grandson while he was still living with his mum, my daughter. (I will call my grandson Marcus, not his real name.) My daughter was a solo mum struggling with financial difficulties, drugs, a child she felt was extremely difficult, relationship problems, and other major life challenges. I helped her all I could, having Marcus to stay one or two nights every week, and helping with housework, shopping, etc – but she simply could not cope, and Marcus was abused both physically and emotionally. At first the abuse was comparatively mild, but when he was six it suddenly escalated, and Marcus needed drastic help. I reported the abuse it to CYF and, as Marcus had asked if he could live with me, I applied through my lawyer for immediate custody.

I soon learned the terrible consequences that can happen when abuse is reported, and custody sought. Because she was the natural mother, my daughter had all the legal rights over Marcus. The first thing she did, after I reported the abuse and applied for custody was to totally cut me off from Marcus. She reported to the police that I had attempted to kidnap him (a lie), and threatened to take out a trespass order against me if I entered her property. I was forced to apply through my lawyer for permission even to phone or visit Marcus. Although my daughter admitted to the abuse of Marcus, she was contending my application for custody; and in the meantime I could do nothing to help Marcus – could not even speak to him on the phone, outside the hours specified by lawyers. The helplessness of my situation (and of Marcus's) was appalling. I received several whispered phone calls from him, obviously made without his mother's knowledge, in which he said he missed me and wanted to come and stay with me, but knew he couldn't. Those calls used to break my heart. Yet there was no help. CYF could not help; our case manager told me that unless a child's life was in immediate danger, they had no power to remove a child from his mother, even though abuse had been admitted, and an application for custody had been filed. The police told me that unless I could show them bruises or broken bones on Marcus, they could not remove him from his mother.

I cannot begin to describe the anguish I went through, and I cannot bear to think of the abandonment and confusion Marcus himself must have felt. I was the one that little boy had turned to for help – yet I was cut off from him, and he was left powerless in the hands of the abuser. He had called my home his “safe place” – yet it was no longer freely open to him. According to the law, I was now the “baddie,” and was permitted to see Marcus only on specific days for specific times, and was allowed one phone call a week. For 16 months, while legal matters dragged on, Marcus and I were kept apart by the very law that should have been there to protect him. It was a time of great anguish. There were many nights when I could not sleep for feelings of overwhelming panic, grief, and desperation to help the child then cut off from me. I could not have got through that time without the grace of God, and the constant support and encouragement of a woman

from Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. There were many desperate hours when her wise, calm voice gave me the strength to go on. However, no battle lasts forever, and when he was seven, sixteen months after asking me for help, Marcus came to live with me.

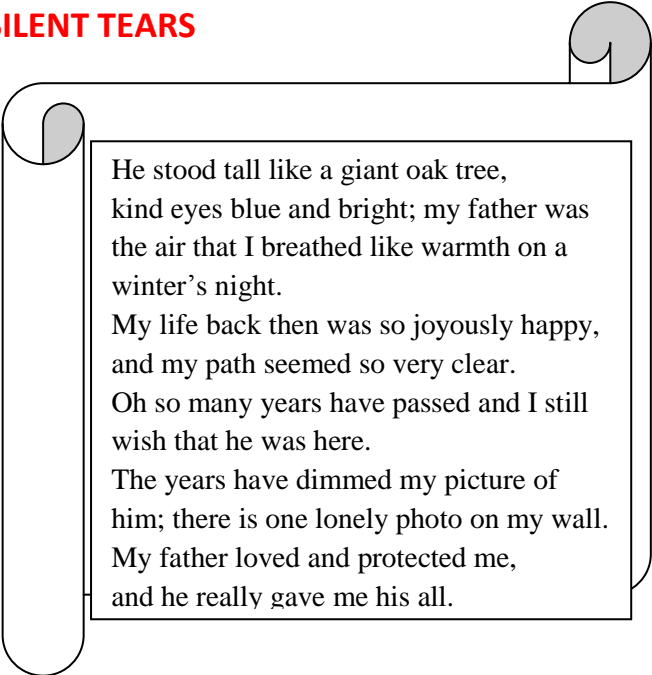
The first year was extremely hard, as Marcus was physically abusive to me, was violent and disruptive – all the outward signs of his inner woundedness. He required a great deal of counselling, and eventually was diagnosed with several disabilities and learning challenges – which made me realise and understand just why my daughter had found him so hard to cope with.

A few years have passed, and life for Marcus and me has settled into a comfortable, often joyful, rhythm. He is growing into a beautiful young man. He now has a loving relationship with his mother, and my relationship with her, too, is improving all the time. Hearts are healing, and all is well.

If I can say anything to anyone else still on that painful battle-ground of fighting to save a wounded child, it is this – stay strong. Justice, love, and peace are the very nature of God. You are on the side of the angels.

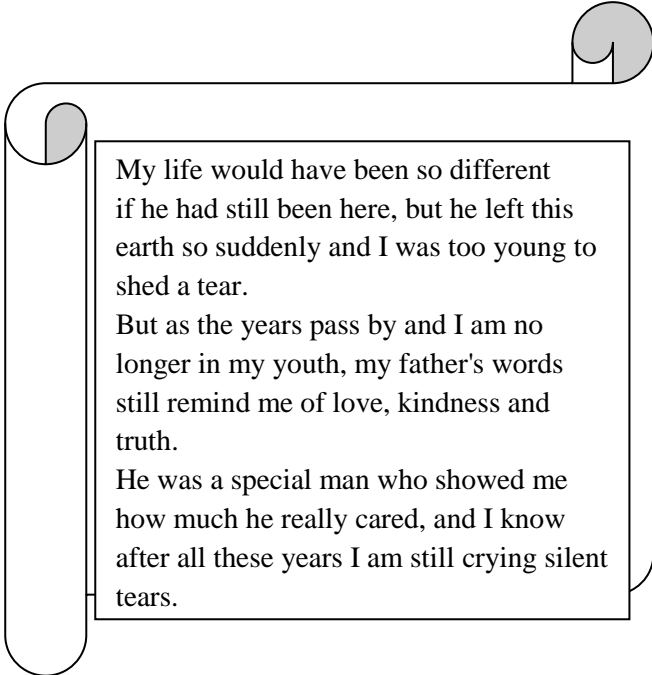
A Warrior Nan.

SILENT TEARS



He stood tall like a giant oak tree,
kind eyes blue and bright; my father was
the air that I breathed like warmth on a
winter's night.
My life back then was so joyously happy,
and my path seemed so very clear.
Oh so many years have passed and I still
wish that he was here.
The years have dimmed my picture of
him; there is one lonely photo on my wall.
My father loved and protected me,
and he really gave me his all.

*By Penelope Taylor
Dedicated to my father, Alan James King*



My life would have been so different
if he had still been here, but he left this
earth so suddenly and I was too young to
shed a tear.
But as the years pass by and I am no
longer in my youth, my father's words
still remind me of love, kindness and
truth.
He was a special man who showed me
how much he really cared, and I know
after all these years I am still crying silent
tears.

Raising 2 writes:

Grandma had her second cataract operation and can now see with both eyes. It's difficult to believe that a 20 minute operation can make such a huge difference to her vision. She had the option of having long or short sight, and even long in one eye and short in the other (we were told it works well!!) but she has gone for long. The patch was only on her eye overnight, and the next morning she was able to see a whole new world. There are lots of "I can see the calves!" "When was that put there?" referring to a road sign that she has been driving past for the last year. Her right eye was done two weeks ago, and now the left eye. What a huge difference, but what a huge problem! Now she can see what I'm up to!! She no longer calls out when she wants me; she can see me all too easily! Bugger!!



David White, Grand-dad

It is said you never stand as tall as when you stoop to help a child. Thank you for being someone who stands tall. Anon.

ECSTASY



What it is

Ecstasy stimulates the secretion of serotonin in the brain, as well as inhibiting the re-uptake of serotonin and dopamine. Mentally, a user may feel empathy, euphoria, closeness and openness to others, even with complete strangers.

Physically, the effects of ecstasy stimulate a person's energy. They may want to dance (ecstasy is often associated with nightclubbing) and their tactile sensations increase. The feelings of touch and massage are more pleasurable.

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The initial 'rush' can last about half an hour (characterized by intense jaw clenching, jittery vision and inability to concentrate) depending on the strength of the tablet. The effects of ecstasy can last for several hours following the initial rush.

Ecstasy is often sold as small tablets, similar in size to common headache pills, which can come in many different colours. Often these pills are branded with a small logo imprinted into the tablet. Ecstasy can also come in powder or capsule form, often sold as pure MDMA.

Ecstasy tablets can be referred to by the brand names given to the pills. The brands are related to the imprinted logo found on one side of the tablet. These names include 'Mitsubishi', 'Nike', 'Lightening bolts', 'Doves', 'Green apples' and 'Crowns'. However, there are thousands of different types of tablets out there, and each different type has variations in strength and effects on the user.

It is important to remember that ecstasy can be adulterated (or 'cut') with other substances like bzp, caffeine or methamphetamine. Some pills contain no MDMA at all.

Slang

E, Pills, Eccy, X, XTC, The love drug, Lollies, Bikkies

Health effects

Short-term effects

Because of the stimulating effect on a person's physical and mental states, ecstasy can pose some short-term risks. See the Safe use section for how these risks can be reduced.

Increased physical activity carries with it the risk of overheating, exhaustion, seizures and collapse. Anyone with a history of heart disease, high blood pressure, hypertension, epilepsy, liver problems and diabetes increases the risk of problems occurring after taking ecstasy.

Ecstasy has the dual risk of dehydration and water intoxication. Someone can feel extremely unwell because ecstasy and vigorous dancing may dehydrate them. Conversely, people often feel the need to drink too much water, leading to a problem called hyponatremia, swelling of the brain due to drinking too much water. Sometimes this is called 'dry drowning' and can lead to collapse and death.

The 'rush' of ecstasy (when the drugs effects first take hold) can be frightening for some people. People with a history of depression, panic attacks and other mental health problems have a greater risk of having a bad time under the influence of ecstasy.

The effects of a 'come down' are felt well into the next week and can be depressing for many people. Insomnia, fatigue, depression, anxiety and difficulty concentrating can occur for several days after taking ecstasy.

Long-term effects

There is little conclusive evidence about the long-term effects of ecstasy use and whether the harm that use can cause is permanent or not. Limited evidence suggests that ecstasy use can cause some damage to parts of the brain.

An American study by Dr George Ricaurte indicated that ecstasy could cause Parkinson's disease and suggested that a single dose of ecstasy could cause irreversible damage. However, this study was entirely retracted after Dr Ricaurte announced that the test subjects (monkeys and baboons) were injected with high doses of methamphetamine instead of MDMA by mistake.

Dependence, addiction and overdose risk

There is no conclusive evidence that ecstasy can be physically addictive. However, regular users can develop tolerance

to the drug, meaning that they must take more each time to feel the same effects. This can increase the risk of overdose. People may become dependent on ecstasy to perform certain activities, such as nightclubbing.

An ecstasy overdose is characterized by very high body temperature and blood pressure, rapid heartbeat and possible hallucinations and convulsions. Death can occur due to:

- over-stimulation, leading to heart attack or brain hemorrhage
- overheating, especially when dancing or during prolonged physical exertion
- drinking too much 'hyponatremia' causing the brain to swell
- taking something that is believed to be ecstasy but isn't. For example, PMA has a higher risk of causing death than MDMA, yet is sometimes sold as ecstasy.

Drug trends

Friday, August 28, 2009

The use of ecstasy has increased over the past decade in New Zealand and is the most well-known of so-called 'designer drugs'. A 2002 study indicated that six percent of 15-17 year-olds and 11 percent of 20-24 year-olds had tried stimulants, or amphetamine type substances, under which ecstasy is categorized.

Treatment providers have also reported an increase in the number of people presenting with ecstasy-related problems, although most recent surveys indicate that ecstasy and LSD were rarely nominated as a primary drug problem by people seeking treatment services.

Although it has been associated with nightclubs and electronic music, the use of ecstasy also happens in homes and private parties. The use of ecstasy is more likely to occur in metropolitan areas, than rural areas.

Studies suggest that ecstasy users are predominantly male, aged 20-29, European and single. However, they came from a broad range of income and occupational groups.

Despite the growing availability and prevalence of ecstasy in New Zealand, there have been only three deaths attributed to its use. The first recorded death was in 1998 and there has been no other recorded ecstasy death since 2001.

An ecstasy tablet costs about \$60 to \$70. This is down from \$80 to \$100 per tablet in the mid-1990s.

Recent statistics

5.4 percent of people surveyed in 2001 had tried ecstasy, and 3.4 percent had tried it within the previous year

12.5 percent of males aged 20-24 had tried ecstasy, and 8.8 percent of males aged 25-29 had tried it

84 percent of ecstasy users are European

78 percent of people surveyed in SHORE's IDMS survey published in 2005 reported that ecstasy was 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain

66 percent of users perceived 'moderate risk' and 'great risk' from taking ecstasy, and 15 percent perceived 'extreme risk'.

In comparison, 56 percent of users perceived crystal meth to have 'extreme risk'.

Source NZ Drug Foundation: [/www.nzdf.org.nz/ecstasy/drug-trends](http://www.nzdf.org.nz/ecstasy/drug-trends)

These tablets appear to be very popular in the night club scene with our young 16 + age group.

Fake ID's are rife and produced at an alarming rate, or they borrow someone's else's who vaguely looks like them, as these nightclubs are dark and with a throng of teens coming thru the doors, just see's a cursory glance at the ID.

They also have a plan that if questioned they snatch back the ID and run.



Informal Coffee/tea groups:

For times and venues

Pukekohe: Raewyn ph 09 238 1703

Coromandel/Tairua/Whitianga: Brenda 07 866 4476

Howick/Manukau: Lorraine 09 271 2900

Tauranga: Colleen 07 578 5341

Tokoroa: Ann (could you phone Di again to verify your phone number please)

Should Chores and Pocket Money be tied together?

written by
Diane Levy



Permission granted to reproduce October 4 2010

The first issue that I would like to deal with is “Is it a good idea that pocket money be tied in with chores?” And the best answer I can come up with for you is “Possibly”.

The advantage of tying them together is that you have a built-in link between cause and effect. You do the chore: you get paid. You don't do your chore: you don't get paid. It is an apparently simple learning lesson. It provides incentive and it provides predictable consequences. It teaches children the value of work and it teaches children the value of money. That seems like a good system.

The Pitfalls: As with any reward based system, the pitfall is that it depends on the reward being worth the effort. What happens when your child decides that he would rather not dry the dishes and be perfectly willing to forgo the cash? Or that this week he needs the cash, so will do his chores, and next week, he has no particular need for money, so he won't.

In this day and age, it seems that children believe very strongly that any money that they earn is theirs to do with as they like. So what do we do when our child has legitimately earned his pocket money and wants to spend it on things that we disapprove of? Are we going to be strong enough to say, “Even though you have earned that legitimately, I have the say on how it is used.” I happen to think that is a valid parenting position, but it is much harder to stick to your guns when you are on the shaky ground of “I earned it. It's mine. I have the right to do what I want with it.”

Another pitfall of tying the two together, is dealing with different ages and competence and time available. It seems natural that the older the child, the more competent they are, the more they can earn – or – it seems fair that everyone has the same number of chores so they have the ability to earn the same amount of money.

And then there is the fairness factor. Some children have more after school commitments or weekend sporting commitments than others. If they are doing things that keep them away from home and that cost the family a great deal of time, effort, transport and finance, should they have to do the same number of chores and/or should they be getting the same amount of pocket money as the child who has fewer outside home commitments – therefore more time to do chores – and has cheaper extra-curricular activities.

Which brings me around to how I learned a useful way of thinking about (think of this phrase in a whiny, child voice) “It's not fair”

It's not fair: Rob and Tanya were respectively nine and eight years old. Rob had got involved in Judo which meant that his parents had to transport him across Auckland two nights a week and wait there while he had two-hour coaching sessions. Judo suits are very expensive.

Tanya went to local ballet classes. She could walk there or we could drop her there. The lessons lasted an hour. The leotard and ballet shoes were not particularly expensive.

One day, Rob declared about something long-forgotten, “It's not fair.” He caught me at one of those raw-nerve moments and I snapped back, “I'll tell you what's fair. Last week I bought Tanya a pair of pink ballet shoes. If you want me to be fair, I go and buy you a pair of pink ballet shoes.”

I'm not particularly proud of that moment. My response was unkind, unfair and nasty. There is nothing fair about buying a boy, who doesn't do ballet, a pair of pink ballet shoes – just because you buy a pair for his sister. If one child needs a pair of ballet shoes (or any other need, for that matter) I don't have to make it up to the other child.

However, at that moment I learned a very important lesson. It is impossible (and not particularly useful!) to have fairness between your children in a way that divides up your time and resources equally. The lesson I learned that day was: it is a parent's job to meet each of their children's needs as best they possibly can.

That lesson comes in very handy when we think about chores and pocket money.

Keep them separate: After various ill-fated attempts at keeping the two linked, Vernon and I started to use two completely separate systems for pocket-money and chores. Our rationale was that children were entitled to pocket money as a consequence of being part of our family. They were also expected to contribute to the family by doing chores as part of their responsibility as family members.

There was no direct connection between chores and pocket money.

Pocket Money: We were in the privileged position to meet all of our children’s financial needs and most of their financial wants. Whatever pocket money they got was to be divided into three portions: one third for spending, one third for saving and one third for giving to charitable purposes.

One third to spend: Our intention was to give our children the pleasure of getting something they wanted, while living within their means. It also gave them the experience at checking out what they could or could not afford, learning delayed gratification by having to wait till next week if they spent their pocket money on the first day and the experience of buying stuff that they thought that they wanted but, once owned, wasn’t half as exciting as they thought it was going to be. It also gave us an excellent “out” for endless requests for treats.

“Can I have an ice block?”

“Of course you can, darling. Can you afford it?”

One third to save: This gave our children the experience of saving up for something that they really wanted while having to delay gratification until they could afford it. They also learned which things were worth saving for and which turned out to be nothing like the advertisements promised. It also did wonders for their calculation skills.

While we used the saving component to “save up” rather than to bank, it would also be possible to have two components, one for saving up to buy and one to bank for the future. (Our take on this, when grandparents gave gifts of money, was to insist that at least half went into the bank.) Frequently, the grandparents tagged the gift with “to bank” and we thought this was really good for our children – though not necessarily appreciated until years later. We had an unspoken rule that money banked was not to be withdrawn unless for a very responsible purpose.

One third for charitable purposes: This was in the era when one could guarantee that, at least once a week, someone would be knocking on our door asking for a donation. Our children rapidly learned to give to charities of their choice. They also caused much stress to the collectors by demanding to know what proportion of their money would be used in administration and what would go to the cause! It taught our children to give graciously and be aware that there were many people less fortunate than themselves.

Pocket money tips

- Once you begin a system of pocket money, you need to reliably have the amount on hand, in the correct subdivisions, on the correct day.
- It is a good idea to supply three jars or moneyboxes – four, if you are going to have a portion to bank.
- Be prepared to take your child to the bank more-or-less whenever they wish to go. They may feel inclined to bank it today. If you wait till tomorrow, it may have already been spent.
- One of the things our kids loved to do was to “change up.” They loved to collect enough coins to add up to paper money and then keep changing up to higher denominations. Be like the Monopoly banker and have a variety of coin and note denominations on hand.

And the big question? ... How much?

We found that there was a careful balance between having so little as to be no use and therefore meaningless and having too much which (a) we couldn’t afford and (b) gave them the ability to spend irresponsibly. For most of their under-ten times, we kept our “to spend” money based on the LII (Latest Ice-cream Index). If they could get a decent quality ice-cream for their “to spend” portion, they could then decide whether to do that or to beak it down into smaller lolly portions.

If you are able to afford to give them the same quantum for saving and spending, it makes life simple. If that tots up to too much for too many children, give them what you can manage. Starting at one dollar for each component at age five and going up fifty cents or a dollar each year.

Chores : As long as your children are reasonably compliant, they are capable of understanding that it takes many, many chores to run a household. Our job, as parents, is to teach our children that doing things for the family is what is expected simply because they are family members.

Let me tell you about the time we had a chore list that lasted over several years. There came a time when I was getting too exhausted doing everything or putting up with asking reluctant individuals to do specific chores. I sat down and made a list of all the things that needed to be done to keep the household running and called a family meeting (not a regular occurrence) and supplied attractive meeting food.

I then put it to the children that it was unfair that I was doing so much and I needed the load to be shared. I presented them with the lists and gave them turns at picking the tasks that they were prepared or able to do. (If your children are varied in age and competence, there is no law that says that every child has to have the same number of chores.) I volunteered that I would take the jobs that no-one wanted to do. The effect of this approach was to give them choice and ownership which upped that chance that they would see through their responsibilities.

Pretty soon we had a list of daily and weekly chores and who would be responsible for what. That one went up on the fridge. I also converted that information into individual daily charts.

What worked and what didn't and what I could have done better: On the whole, the system worked well because it was transparent, it was fair and the children had ownership in the form of consultation and the ability to choose.

The fact that it was set up as a set of reasonable expectations of family contribution, rather than depending on a reward system, meant that pleasant reminders were usually accepted rather than resisted.

One thing that needed ironing out, was not having one child depend on another child's chores to do their own. I rapidly learned that having one child's ability to dry and put away dishes, depending on the other to have first washed them in a timely way was a recipe for disaster. It was far better that I took responsibility for the "first" chore so that the responsible child could easily do the follow-up.

Where circumstances meant that a particular task was not possible because of unplanned interruptions, I left myself with the option of sometimes trading another task and (round things like exams, illnesses or trips away) simply taking it on myself.

Rather than getting into battles about chores not done, I preferred to treat them like any non-compliance with older children. I was banking on the fact that our children always need something from us. So if there was something my child needed from me (like transport) and a task not yet complete even though I had done a polite reminder, I would simply say mildly, "as soon as your task is done, I'll be happy to give you a lift." The first few times there was a lot of huffing and puffing, but eventually they got the message that chores were not up for avoidance.

The one thing that I wish I had done better, was to have monthly meetings (with donuts!) to change over chores. The list that emerged on the first round worked well for me so we stuck to it but it would have given my children more ownership and a feeling of more fairness, if I had given them the opportunity to exchange tasks more often.

Staying on Track: Neither the pocket money nor the chore system is particularly easy. It requires a lot of commitment and (I apologise for using the word) consistency, both of which are not the easiest of parenting skills.

The reward for staying faithful to good systems is that it your children learns a lot about commitment, consistency, reliability and contribution and you get to have a relatively peaceful household.

It may not be ideal, but it is a lot better than the alternative of chaos, confusion and lots of arguments.

Di & Team (you as a caregiver are part of this team)

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust: National Convenor

heoi ano, na *E te Atua, aroha mai..... O God shower us with love. Ka kite*

Can we help you? **Members Services Nationwide**

Field Officers:

Alison Cuthbert:

A Family Court Counsellor; CYF representation where practicable and advice, she is familiar with the Family Court procedures related to general counselling and court procedures when applications are being made for who will assume the Primary Care Role for children. Ph 09 445 9671 Toll call, use 0800 345 671(landline use only)

Nola Adams:

Telephone advice can be given on the following topics Justice and Prison system, including Youth Court Family Court applications: for persons wishing to self-represent: Child Youth and Family representation where practicable/advice. Disability advice and the Schooling system. Nola can be contacted on ph 06 845 3141 Toll call, use 0508 367474 (landline use only)

Diana East:

In-depth knowledge on issues impacting on grandparents raising grandchildren; has many years working with mental health consumers and carers, this gives her a very good understanding of a wide range mental health issues. Ph 04 970 8177 if a Toll call use 0508 32 34 35 (landline use only)

Please feel free to send/email this report on to others whom you think may be interested:

Please pass this on to other grandparents/kin carers you know of.

Disclaimer: Views expressed in this newsletter may not be the views of the GRG Trust.

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GRG Trust Head Office hours are 9am-3pm daily. (We raise grandchildren too)

We are a voluntary organisation.

All donations to the GRG Trust are tax deductible.

Abbreviations:

GRG – Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

H/O – Head Office

H/B – Handbook

BOT – Board of Trustees

CYF – Child Youth & Family Services

Co's – Co-ordinator/s

UCB – Unsupported Child Benefit.

WINZ – Work & Income NZ now DWI – Department of Work & Income

Grands – Grandparents

G/c – grandchild/ren

Kin – Kinship Carers

BPS – Business Professional Services. Our out Secretarial Service.

Are your children under CYF?

Do you have trouble getting hold of your Social Worker?

If this is the case then you can call 0508 CARER 0508 227 377 they will then make sure you are spoken to by your Social Worker and if they are not available then someone else will talk to you.

www.grg.org.nz or www.kin.org.nz or www.raisinggrandchildren.org.nz or www.raisinggrandchildren.net
Email office@grg.org.nz

National Convenor: Di Vivian

Free Phone 0800 GRANDS or 0800 472637 (not for use for Auckland callers) Landline users only.

Telephone: (09) 480 6530

Postal Add: PO Box 34 892 Birkenhead. Auckland 0742

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please contact the Trust Office as this is where the total mail out membership is kept. Moved home or planning to? Be sure to let us know.

We are a Charitable Trust



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