This leader’s guide is intended for use with a small group of grandparent-aged participants. Participants need not be grandparents. The meeting should last approximately 30 minutes.

In addition to this leaders guide, you will need one factsheet for each participant. Grandparents and Discipline is available from your county extension office. Additional resources on responsive discipline are available but are not necessary for this meeting.

What to teach a child (15 minutes)

Ask participants to take a few minutes to think of one thing they would like to teach a child. This could be a value, a skill, a belief, anything they think would be important for the child to learn. The child could be any age.

Ask participants to go around the circle and describe the skill they identified. Why is this goal important for children? How does a grandparent or elder help children learn this value, belief, or skill?

Emphasize that responsive discipline is everything we do to help children learn. To be an effective teacher, we have to have some goal in mind. When nurturing a child toward adulthood, we should never lose sight of our most important priorities.

Responding to problems (15 minutes)

Read each of the following situations to your group and ask them to think of an effective response. When everyone is ready, go around the circle and ask participants for their ideas. Emphasize there is no one right answer.

You and your daughter and granddaughter go shopping together in the mall. Five year old Stephanie wants you to buy something for her. But you think your daughter would not want her to have this item. Stephanie pleads and pleads. What would you do?

You think your son-in-law punishes your twelve-year-old grandson too harshly. You see the young boy becoming more timid and fearful. And now, during a visit, his father reacted to the child’s sassiness with a sharp blow to his head, knocking him off your kitchen chair. What do you do?

After discussing these problems and if you have time, ask participant to comment on the greatest challenges they think grandparents face.

Additional responsive discipline material including a 30-minute video, a personal study course, a toolbox of discipline options, additional factsheets, and a more detailed leader’s guide are available from your county extension office.

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All educational programs and materials available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

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