

Grandparents

These ideas can be used for

- Cross-curricular topic work involving children's different languages
- Language classes in the community
- MFL classes

See also resources on powerpoint and lesson plans ([links](#))

A Somali teacher from an after-school class based at primary school helped his primary colleagues to prepare the topic of 'Grandparents'. He drew a tree with different branches for members of the family, and children practised kinship terms by 'acting out' the tree. Children in Somali class and mainstream class wrote messages to grandparent and discussed where they lived and how to travel there. A Grandparents Afternoon was held at the school, where parents and grandparents helped make family trees in different languages. Children presented their messages and grandparents came into class to be interviewed. Grandparents from different cultural backgrounds enjoyed the event and were pleased to have their knowledge valued by the school. A grandparent expressed her wish to continue with this work:

I want to talk to them about things like coins, games we used to play, clothes we used to wear, oh so many things.

Resources

- Diagram of tree with kinship terms written on the branches
- Photos of grandparents brought in from home
- Globe and atlas to find out where grandparents live

Lesson structure

- Family tree: words for relatives, children learn with actions and rhythm
- Make family trees in different languages
- Families bring photos of grandparents
- Write messages to grandparents and create powerpoint presentation from class
- How would you travel to your grandparents' home, what landscapes would you see?
- Hold a Grandparents Morning or Afternoon
- Children show their messages and interview grandparents in class

Aspects of learning

- Children exploring their roots and who they are
- Building attachment to grandparents
- Learning the right way to talk to all elders
- Learning about types of travel and landscapes

Home-school links

- Understanding kinship systems in different cultures
- Knowing where grandparents are located and supporting intergenerational contact
- Grandparents become a resource for learning in the school