

The background of the entire page is decorated with a pattern of small, light gray dots and larger, stylized streamers or confetti pieces in a similar color. The streamers are scattered throughout, some appearing as simple curved lines and others as more complex, looped shapes. The dots are of varying sizes and are distributed across the entire surface, creating a festive and celebratory atmosphere.

101 IDEAS TO INTENTIONALLY
CONNECT WITH YOUR GRANDS

CELEBRATE GRANDPARENTING!

ELAINE McALLISTER

CELEBRATE GRANDPARENTING!

By Elaine McAllister

ISBN: 978-1-7339382-0-4

Library of Congress Control Number: 2019904424

Copyright © 2019 by Elaine McAllister

Printed in the United States of America

By Mennonite Press, Inc.

Newton, Kansas.

www.MennonitePress.com

Published by A. Elaine McAllister

Cover design and typesetting by Vogel Design LLC in Wichita, Kansas.

All rights reserved. With the exception of the reproducible lineart on page 19, no part of this publication may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without the written permission of the copyright holder except as provided by the United States of America copyright law.

For more information on this book and the author, visit

<https://www.elainemcallister.com>


Available in print from your local bookstore, online, or from the author at

<https://www.elainemcallister.com>

For permissions, please contact:

CELEBRATE GRANDPARENTING!

P.O. Box 233, Hillsboro KS 67063-0233

The background of the page is decorated with a pattern of small, light gray dots and larger, dark gray dots, interspersed with thin, wavy, light gray streamers that resemble confetti or streamers.

*Dedicated to
my grandchildren
and future generations,
with whom and because of whom
I intentionally
Celebrate Grandparenting!*

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT CELEBRATE GRANDPARENTING!

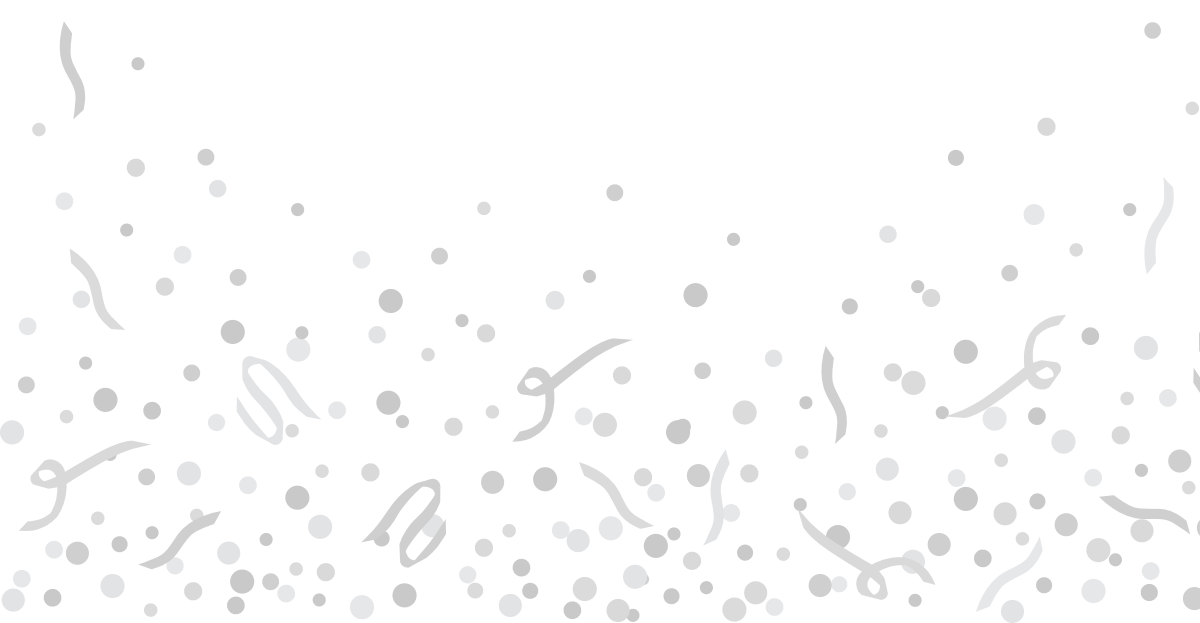
When I am given “idea” books to review, I wait for the dumb ideas, and make mental notes of how many there are. Therefore, when I was given *Celebrate Grandparenting*, I was ready to start counting. To my pleasant surprise, as I read, I simply didn't find any. In fact, the opposite happened—I kept showing ideas to my wife Diane, saying, “We're going to need to do this one.”

I believe the superior practicality of the book is because Elaine McAllister has lived her book; her 101 ideas come out of her personal experience. In addition, her attention to detail provides the readers with all they need to know to carry out each idea.

This book is exceptionally well-organized, beautifully designed, easily implemented, and on top of that, inspirational. It will give you marvelous tools to enhance your relationship with your grandchildren, and will also help you focus on being an intentional influencer in faith, morals, and ethics. This is simply the best “how to” book on Christian grandparenting that I have read!

LARRY FOWLER

Founder, Legacy Coalition



Elaine has written one of the few truly creative idea books for grandparents that is coupled with intentional suggestions for using these creative moments to share God's truth and point your grandchildren to the Gospel message. This is a must have addition to your grandparenting toolbox.

CAVIN HARPER

Founder & President of Christian Grandparenting Network since 1997

Elaine's enthusiasm for grandparenting shines through on every page of *Celebrate Grandparenting*. In her conversational style, she shares 101 practical activities perfect for every grandparent-grandchild relationship, many of which include teachable faith moments or long-distance grandparenting adaptations. But as a fairly new Gigi, it's Elaine's collection of family traditions that I was drawn to. I cannot wait to start a few with my own grandblessings. If you're looking for user-friendly ideas for everyday memorable moments with your grandkids, this is your go-to resource! Love it!

MICHELLE MEDLOCK ADAMS

Award-winning & bestselling author of more than 90 books, including Dinosaur Devotions, What Is America? and Platinum Faith

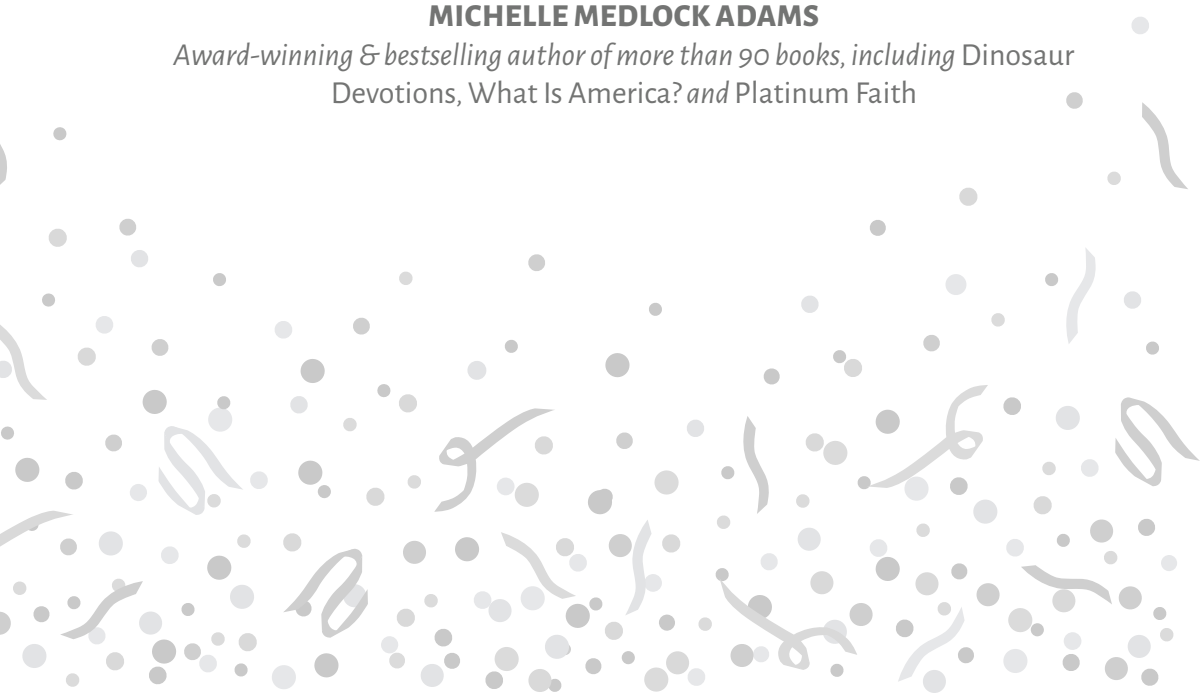


TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION ONE

CELEBRATE WITH CRAFTS

Inexpensive, easy crafts for gift giving or keepsakes

#1	Button Frames	12
#2	Glass Gem Magnets	13
#3	Eye Can (I can...)	14
#4	Cute-as-a-Button Magnets	15
#5	Terra Cotta Creche	16
#6	Popsicle Stick Creche	17
#7	Stained Glass Paper	18
#8	Personalized Aprons	20
#9	Design-a-Plate	21
#10	Stuffed Shirt Pillows	22
#11	Handprint Canvas	23
#12	"It's for the Birds" Bird Feeder	24
#13	Puzzled Frames	25
#14	Thumbprint Magnets	26
#15	Stained Glass Votives	27
#16	Pony Bead Suncatchers	28

SECTION TWO

CELEBRATE ON THE GO

On-the-go activities of great value for generations who travel together

#17	Talking License Plates	32
#18	Rainbow Road Trip	34
#19	ABC Marathon	35
#20	Vacation Journal	36

SECTION THREE

CELEBRATE WITH TRADITIONS

Easily-adaptable traditions for every family

#21	Advent Angels – The Event	46
#22	Camp Gram – The Event	47

#23	Cousin Camp – The Event	49
#24	The Invitation (Event Extra)	50
#25	My Camp Journal (Event Extra)	51
#26	Indoor Tents (Event Extra)	52
#27	An Advent of Christmas Books	54
#28	Christmas Eve Pajama Party	55
#29	The Four Gift Christmas	56
#30	A Gingerbread Christmas	57
#31	Christmas Ornament of the Year	58
#32	Back-to-School Breakfast	59
#33	The Blessing of the Backpack	60
#34	Capture the Year in Pictures	61
#35	Class of ???? Shirt	62
#36	Back-to-School Dangle	63
#37	Oh, the Places You Will Go	64
#38	Grand Birthday Trip	65
#39	Birthday Journal	66
#40	Grandma's (or Grandpa's) Bible	67
#41	Birthday Balloons	69
#42	Resurrection Garden	70
#43	The Fab Five	71
#44	Random Acts of Kindness	73
#45	Summer Bucket List	75
#46	Family Growth Chart	77

SECTION FOUR

CELEBRATE IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Family-friendly outdoor fun

#47	Garden Jenga	82
#48	Kid Flicks	83
#49	Sidewalk Art	84
#50	Garden Twister	85
#51	Sponge Bombs	86
#52	Generic Scavenger Hunt	88

#53 A to Z Scavenger Hunt	89
#54 Scripture Scavenger Hunt	90
#55 Park Scavenger Hunt	91
#56 After Dark Scavenger Hunt	92
#57 Backyard Scavenger Hunt	93
#58 Touchy-Feely Scavenger Hunt	94
#59 Listening Scavenger Hunt	95
#60 Country Life Scavenger Hunt	96
#61 City Life Scavenger Hunt	97
#62 Zoo Scavenger Hunt	98

SECTION FIVE

CELEBRATE ACROSS THE MILES

Theme-specific ideas especially for long-distance grandparents

#63 It's Showtime	102
#64 Sundae Fun Day	103
#65 Artist in Residence	104
#66 Crafty Kids	105
#67 Here's a Hug	106
#68 Cupcakes Galore	107
#69 Pick a Color, Any Color	108
#70 Countdown to Fun	109
#71 Read to Succeed	110
#72 Balloons and More	111
#73 Bon Appétit	112
#74 Wintertime Fun	113
#75 Gardening 101	114

SECTION SIX

CELEBRATE IN THE KITCHEN

Flavorful, fun snacks and meals

#76 Hobo Meals	118
#77 Mystery Meals	119

#78 Mini Banana Splits	123
#79 Mega Banana Split	124
#80 S'mores on a Stick	125
#81 Mini S'mores	126
#82 S'more Kisses	127
#83 S'mores in a Cone	128
#84 Brown Bag Picnic	129
#85 Decorated Sugar Cookies	130
#86 Chicka Chicka Boom Boom	131
#87 No Mess Watermelon	132
#88 Choco Freeze	133
#89 Shaker Soft Serve	134
#90 Spaghetti Dogs	135
#91 Walking Tacos	136
#92 Candy Bar Car	137
#93 On-the-Go Omelets	138
#94 Mini Pizzas	139
#95 Fruit Kabob Flag	140

SECTION SEVEN

CELEBRATE WITH CONVERSATIONS

Creative prompts to initiate conversations

#96 Sharing Memories	145
#97 Timeless Trivia	147
#98 I Challenge You	148
#99 It's Hypothetical	150
#100 Make a Choice	151
#101 Simply Questions	153

INTRODUCTION

Children need someone who is short on criticism and long on love, prays for them consistently, encourages them to excel in all things, and always cares in spite of their behaviors. That's a grandparent.

Grandparent/grandchild relationships are second only, in terms of influence, to parent/child relationships and this book provides ideas to help grandparents make the most of that influence.

Celebrate Grandparenting is a valuable resource featuring 101 memory-making activities for grandparents and grandchildren to use as they celebrate life together. The book includes step-by-step instructions, needed materials, photographs, illustrations, age-level adaptations, and suggestions for long-distance grandparenting. It's expandable for future celebrations, as newly-discovered ideas can be noted at the end of each section.

Celebrate with Crafts
Celebrate on the Go
Celebrate with Traditions
Celebrate in the Great Outdoors
Celebrate Across the Miles
Celebrate in the Kitchen
Celebrate with Conversations

My desire is for grandparents to always, always, always *Celebrate Grandparenting!*

Elaine McAllister (better known as Gramma Mac)

SECTION ONE

CELEBRATE WITH CRAFTS

One of the best ways I've found to connect with grandchildren is to work together on a craft project, whether it's a complicated one that takes several days or weeks to complete, or a simple impromptu craft you can do in an hour or less. There's something very satisfying about crafting together, as grandparent and grandchild, and it often leads to some great conversations as an added benefit.

In this section of *Celebrate Grandparenting*, you'll find a variety of ideas with easy-to-follow instructions and lists of supplies and tools you'll need to complete each craft.

When planning a craft, consider the age and abilities of your grandchildren. Some craft ideas are better suited for older children, but are easily accomplished for younger ones with a little extra grandparent help.

Whenever you see the phrase **Adult Task** in the directions, it simply means safety is a concern. For example, adult supervision is often needed when using hot glue guns due to the possibility of burns, so be prepared to lend a helping hand when you see that phrase.

Also, remember that some of the ideas in *Celebrate Grandparenting* have great, easy-to-share spiritual applications. One of my favorites is the Eye Can which—when tied to Philippians 4:13—takes on a different meaning, as it reminds us of the “I can” promise of scripture—you know the one: “I can do all things through Christ...” The Eye Can has definitely been a favorite of kids over the years as I've shared it at Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and with my own kids and now, grandkids. It's an easy craft with a powerful double meaning. Check it out!

There are lots of crafts to choose from, so decide what to do, make a list and visit your local craft store. Get ready for some great memory-making moments with your grandchildren as you CELEBRATE WITH CRAFTS!

#1

BUTTON FRAMES

You will need:

- Poster board or craft frames
- Magnet tape
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks
- Assorted buttons
- A photo to display

Directions:

1. Make a poster board frame or use a store-bought cardboard craft frame.
2. **Adult Task:** Using a glue gun, randomly attach buttons to the frame, overlapping or stacking as desired.
3. Attach a strip of magnet tape on the back, then add your favorite photograph.



#2

GLASS GEM MAGNETS

You will need:

- Small clear glass gems
- White school glue
- Small round magnets
- Small foam paintbrush
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks
- Discarded magazines, books, or hymnals

Directions:

1. Cut small pictures or words from discarded books for your feature.
2. Using white glue, attach the feature to the flat side of the gem, making sure it's visible THROUGH the rounded side.
3. Apply more white glue over the paper to seal all the edges on what will be the back side. It'll dry clear.
4. **Adult Task:** Using a hot glue gun, attach a magnet to the back.



Note: Never miss an opportunity to involve your grands in making things for others. This is a great idea to use for table favors for a church dinner, and kids love knowing they helped in some way. Use scriptures or hymns as the feature for an upcoming event, or let the kids hand them out after church.

#3

EYE CAN

You will need:

- White school glue
- Small foam paintbrush
- Container with lid
- Discarded magazines
- Scissors

**Directions:**

1. Cut random colorful eyes (of people or animals, cartoons or graphics) from discarded magazines.
2. Choose a small container with a lid. Pringles chips or Crystal Light drink mix containers are great.
3. Brush glue to a section of the container and randomly attach eyes, starting with larger ones.
4. Continue filling gaps with smaller eyes until the entire surface of the container is covered in eyes.
5. Let dry for 20 minutes or so before adding a top coat of glue to seal all loose edges. The glue will dry clear.



Note: Find Philippians 4:13 in your Bible—it's the eye can verse (I can do all things...). I love the double meaning associated with this craft. Memorize the verse as you work on the craft. Your grandchildren will remember the promise of this scripture whenever they see their Eye Can.

Note: Eye Cans make great pencil holders, or cut a slit in the lid to make a bank.

#4

CUTE-AS-A-BUTTON MAGNETS

You will need:

- Small round magnets
- Assorted buttons
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks
- Metal gift card box (optional)

Directions:

1. Pick 2 or 3 buttons which look good together and stack nicely.
2. **Adult Task:** Depending upon the ages of your grandchildren, an adult might want operate the glue gun to prevent burns.
3. Using hot glue, attach largest button to a magnet and press firmly being careful as hot glue will come through button holes.
4. Repeat, adding one or two more buttons.
5. Shank buttons are a perfect way (though not necessary) to top it off.

Note: Display a few of these magnets in a metal gift card box for an easy gift-giving idea. Add a bit of tissue paper confetti just for fun.

