

Manuscript Review

Title: Welcome to Grandparenting
Author: Rosemary Weis & Michelle Johnston
Word Count: 20,581 (C.E.)
*Sample edit on pages 49-50.

General Overview

This nonfiction guide is to aid new grandparents in being the best grandparents they can be while caring for their grandchildren. The book offers advice for grandparenting at different ages of children, with the key idea that grandparenting is just as important in a child's life as parenting.

Manuscript's Strengths

- The book has a unique concept that is important to share with readers: grandparents learning ways to love and guide their grandchildren effectively. The stance of educating grandparents on how to be valuable, loving mentors in their grandchildren's lives, no matter the age, provides a stable foundation for the book and generates a piqued interest of the content by readers.
- The content is very understandable and relatable in word choice, scenarios, and logical solutions offered to new grandparents. Both authors' knowledge from real-life experiences seems to come through in how they craft their advice and the encouragement in their guidance for what is ahead for readers/new grandparents.
- The manuscript epitomizes the essence of a how-to guide, with several chapters providing bullet lists of options for grandparenting and detailed chapters that discuss the mindset of being a grandparent to one's grandchildren (versus being a parent). Readers will find countless subjects discussed in the manuscript that apply to what they have or will experience as grandparents, which will make this book a valuable resource worth re-reading.

Areas the Author Can Improve

- The "Welcome to Grandparenting" page is beneficial in sharing the intentions of the authors with the book, but since this is to be viewed almost like a self-help guide, stating some of the principles to be discussed or a brief outline of content would be helpful to include. The Table of Contents does assist in sharing with readers what will be discussed but a brief outline of topics in the "Welcome to Grandparenting" page wouldn't harm the book's impact.
- Since Chapters 1 & 2 are so brief, the authors may want to consider combining them into Chapter 1, since both are also introductory content before the advice is given to new grandparents in Chapter 3. The combined chapters will establish a smoother lead-in for readers into Chapter 3 (which discusses what to do after learning you will be grandparents).

Suggested Mill City Editorial Service

What is recommended for the manuscript is the **Basic Copyedit service**, which will correct errors in punctuation, spelling, and grammar in one round of editing. The following will be corrected through the editorial service listed here:

- Grammar
- Punctuation
- Typos & Spelling
- Incomplete sentences
- Subject-verb agreement
- Consistent Voice/Tense maintained
- Suggesting proper referencing and quoting of source
- Simple syntax and adding minor missing words
- Very light commenting that will be only suggestions for source citations, scripture references, and spelling errors
- Note: Scripture checking is not included; verses will only be checked for typos.

SAMPLE EDIT ON PAGES 49-50:

Baby-sitting is probably the most requested help new parents seek. If you speak to seasoned grandparents, you will hear many different views on the subject. Everyone has their own preference. As you consider the grandparent relationship you wish to create, it's important that you think about the pros and cons of the issue. Remember, it is your choice to sit or not, but weigh your decision carefully.

Some grandparents feel they have waited a long time for their own kids to grow up and will do anything but baby-sit. After all, this is their golden years, their time alone. You need to realize that this position, while valid, may present a hardship on the parents. All parents, especially those with infants and young children, need a break to focus on their relationship. (This is good for many reasons, including creating a loving home environment for your grandchildren to grow up in). Trusted child care is often hard to come by. Teenage sitters can be unreliable and inexperienced; professional sitting services can be costly or over their budget. From your children's point of view, having Grandma and Grandpa watch over their little ones is the next best thing to being there themselves.

You don't want your decision not to baby-sit to come back and haunt you. Many is the story of grandparents who were too busy when their kids and grandchildren needed them, who later found out that no one was there

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to help them in their older years. Non-baby-sitting grandparents who find themselves in this situation often feel hurt, when they learn that the reason their grown children don't want to be there for them is because they felt unsupported during the early years of raising their own families.

If your fears are of being used, then clearly communicate this (preferably before the baby arrives). There are grandparents who have been taken advantage of, and left overworked and greatly unappreciated. This is not the situation you want to be in! If you expect a certain level of respect or payback for your kindness, then communicate that nicely. If you are afraid of being turned into the free nanny and worked like a dog, explain your feelings to the parents. It may be that the new parents aren't thinking about the situation from your perspective, or have not yet figured out the best way to make the situation work. Remember, this is all new to them too.

One way to keep things from spiraling out of control is to arrive at a joint, bartering agreement.

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