



Why is contact with older caregivers important?

One heart and one soul, grandma and her grandchild. Spending time with grandma brings a lot of joy for grandma, children and parents too –who can finally enjoy some time together as a couple. When grandma and the little ones are busy, it is good for everyone's soul. In addition, the get together of different generations has a psychological and educational value for children. You can learn more about this in this article.

Without question mom and dad are the most important caregivers for children. Mum and dad are the people with whom children develop a first relationship and thus know them best. According to the educational scientist Prof. Peter Struck, children need several kinds of caregivers in addition to their parents. This is important in order to get to know the maternal, paternal, fraternal and friendly, but also the grandmotherly and grandfatherly. By having more caring people around children, they can learn to develop affection and trust with other people. Children instinctively choose the person with whom they feel a good bond.

Through contact with older people, children can see that grandma and grandpa do a lot differently than mom and dad –and sometimes even a little more relaxed. This is due to the fact that grandparents often bring a lot of time and peace with them, which parents might lack in the everyday family life. Children also learn that besides their parents, there are other people they love and whom they can trust. This experience is very important for children to develop and form bonds in their later adult life. Regular contact with other caregivers is a prerequisite for building such bonds and trust. However, when grandma and grandpa only visit every few months, it is harder to bond.

All in all, through contact with grandma and grandpa, children have another confidante to whom they can entrust secrets and concerns. Through their life experience, children can get a different perspective on things and assess situations differently. Contact with different caregivers in different phases of life can therefore make a great contribution to the personal development of your children. If grandma and grandpa do not live close to their own home, older neighbors or a granny-nanny can become another caregiver for your child.

I hope you enjoyed this article and expanded your awareness of caregivers for children. If you have any suggestions, feel free to send me an email or contact me via my Facebook page.

All the best and see you next time,

David Gathof.