Grandparenting 101: libraries are a family affair.

Being a grandparent is one of life’s greatest rewards. If you are like me, you want to spend as much time with your grandchildren as possible. You may want to find ways to entertain them, that doesn’t involve Fortnite or video games, but you want to do something that you will enjoy as much as the grandkids. Well, the Library has a number of great activities to keep you both happy.

During the week, if your grandchild is age zero to 18 months old, the Library has ABC’s for Babies. From 18 months to 3 years of age there is Toddle Time, and for 3 to 5 year olds there is Preschool Storytime. From songs, to crafts and stories, there is never a dull moment at these great programs for young children. There are also drop-in programs for the whole family, from Family Storytimes, Family Sing-a-longs, Block Play! and LEGOS @Library.

For those grandparents who only have the weekends with their grandchildren, there are always things you can do by dropping into your nearest library branch. You can enjoy some quality time reading together, and playing with LEGO, challenging yourselves with puzzles, or playing with a wide variety of games. By reading to your grandchildren you can encourage them to make life-long learning a part of their lifestyle.

For older children ages 5 and up we have lots of programs to fit the bill such as Young Readers Club, Knitting for Kids (ages 8+) and Imagination Saturdays (drop-in, all ages, all day during open hours) in Pictou, River John, Stellarton, Westville, and a Crafty Saturday in Trenton on the 2nd Saturday of the month.

There are also ‘Tween Scene (ages 8+) in Westville and ‘Tween Readers Club in Stellarton, Gamers Afterschool @Library (drop-in) New Glasgow and Westville, Teen Readers Club in Antigonish and Stellarton, and a monthly Open Mic Night in Antigonish. And starting in April, we added a new drop-in Afterschool @Library program at the River John library on Tuesdays to Fridays from 3:00pm to 4:00pm (during the school year).

If you’re a crafty person you may want to check out the many books available for children’s crafts and find some neat ideas for crafting with your grandchildren. Or maybe you can simply have a game of Checkers with them, and see who wins.

Maybe the kids can teach you something new on the computer or you can teach them a thing or two. Another idea might be to view the large number of historical documents, books, photos, etc. that are housed in most branch libraries. The New Glasgow Library is a partner with the Pictou County Roots Society and the Roots Room in the branch has a lot of interesting items including, but not limited to, old maps and possibly information on your family’s ancestry.

Grab the grandchildren and come on down to your local library and Check Us Out!

For a complete list of programs for children check out our website at www.parl.ns.ca or contact us at any of the branches or at Headquarters at (902) 755-6031. Our friendly, helpful staff would be happy to assist you in finding a program or an activity that’s suitable for you and your grandchildren. We hope to see you soon, at the Library.

For more information on upcoming library programs, special events and services, please drop by your local library branch, follow us on Twitter, find us on Facebook, or visit us online at www.parl.ns.ca.