



## Self Care for Kinship Caregivers

The most important thing Kinship Caregivers can do is practice self care. Caregivers who demonstrate strong coping techniques and stability adapt to situations easier, thus helping their family adjust and grow.

- Talk to someone. Unburdening yourself can be a stress reliever. Talk to a friend, counselor, relative, church member or your family doctor.
- Find a support group for Kinship Caregivers in your area. This will allow you to connect with families who may be undergoing similar changes and share your challenges and changes with other families who will understand. For a listing of kinship support groups in your area, call the Parent Helpline at 1-800-CHILDREN or visit [www.kcsl.org](http://www.kcsl.org).
- Take a break. A short time away from your family may give you a chance to relax and breathe. All caregivers need a break! Do not wait until there is a breaking point.
- Respite is important! Find a trusted family member or friend who can commit to one weekend a month to take over while you are out.
- Take a parenting class. A class may help you feel more comfortable with your status as a caregiver. It will also provide support from your teacher and other students in the class. To find a class in your area, call the Parent Helpline at 1-800-CHILDREN or visit [www.kcsl.org](http://www.kcsl.org).
- Have fun! Use humor and games to relieve tension, reduce stress, promote wellness and ease the adjustment of your family.

Over  
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## REFERENCES FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS

Children's Defense League  
[www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)

Generations United  
[www.gu.org](http://www.gu.org)

GransPlace  
[www.gransplace.org](http://www.gransplace.org)

Kansas Children's Service League  
[www.kcsl.org](http://www.kcsl.org)

AARP  
[www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org)

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**For more online tip cards, visit [www.KCSL.org](http://www.KCSL.org)  
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