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Judy Fitzgerald: I'll show my grandson world's lovely treasures

I always heard becoming a grandmother was special, and based on personal experience, it's true! That little person brings out so much love in a family.

I was surprised at the almost primitive connection that I felt with my daughter during those first few days that were exhausting, deep and demanding. I guess you would say they were intense, and I wouldn't have traded them for anything, not even a good night's sleep.

Memories of my daughter's birth came flooding back to me as I watched in awe as she became a mother with such grace and strength it was as if she was born for that role. I was moved by the love that my daughter and son-in-law share, which kept them going throughout it all. There were so many unexpected and treasured gifts.

I can't help but muse about this precious little boy. What will he be like? Looking at his beautiful porcelain face – no angel could be more lovely – takes my breath away.

It is hard to remember that we all started out like this, each and every one of us. If only I could always remember that.

What can I give to him? From my new vantage point, I'm supposed to be able to give him the benefit of my many years of experience. Aren't elders supposed to be full of wisdom?

The funny part is, as I grow older, I feel I understand less than I did when I was a child. So maybe it's best to start way back there. I remember that I spent a lot of time in an imaginary world where I could do anything or be anyone I wanted to be – and it changed frequently.

I had so many friends: my dog, the trees, the birds and so many others. I was surrounded by companions who loved life as much as I did. There were no boundaries in those days and looking at the sky proved that. And I had so much time. It seemed like everyone else, especially my mother and father, were always so busy.

One thing I am sure of. Nature is the best teacher of awesome mysteries and therein lies the wisdom. I must do what I can to help my grandson celebrate and appreciate this beautiful world.

His task will be to become aware of life's precious and fragile beauty and to learn that he must do what he can to protect and live in harmony with all of life. I want to take him out into the backyard and show him how it is teeming with all forms of life so he will know he is never really alone. We can join life through play and be thankful for the shade of the trees on a hot summer day.

In the meantime, while he is growing into himself, I need to stand up and say no to those who see our home and its resources and treasures primarily to be bought and sold with disregard for the consequences to the Earth and all of us. Our children and our grandchildren need us to protect their legacy and to teach them to treat every living thing on this planet with respect and love.

Grandparents do have a special place in the scheme of things, because they know without the living Earth, there will be no life.

I want to teach my grandson what all generations need to know: We have a sacred obligation to pass on what we have been so graciously given. Without taking a stand now, that will not be possible.