

## Becoming Grandmother - AprilFallis - OSEU #4

They say, You're not an old elder, you're a young elder. Okay, I'll take that. But love being a grandma, and love it when they, like so, even just yesterday, I had the last of the Lakota Circles of Hope class, we did that with the kids. And this little boy comes and he says, So, you can really be my grandma? I said, Sure, I can. I said, Even though I'm not related to you, they say, long time with the ancestors, the grandmas and grandpas say that anybody older than you is your elder, so I can be your grandma.

Oh, cool, he said, and gave me a hug, and then he went. But even that, you know, the hugging that I get, the hugs from the kids, and them being able to know that there's a grandma here, that we have a grandma here. And even some of the older kids now, you know, well, I'll see them, and there's grandma. Sometimes they'll call me grandma fast, because that was a program I did when we first started. But even now, they'll call me grandma, and invite me to their graduation, or things like it.

The ones that have left, I'll see them, and they'll be hollering at me someplace along the road. But I always, I'm so thankful, because being able to do that curriculum with the kids, it's like, I'm learning from them, and they're learning from me, so each other, a team, I'm always using the word teamwork, because that's what it takes to build a team, and you have to be strong, and be able to help them through whatever they're going through, and just let them know that you're there for them all the time.