

# Baby Naming

There are two gifts  
we should give our children.  
One is roots and the other is wings.  
HODDING CARTER



We are delighted to be surrounded by family and friends as we welcome our daughter into this loving community. While many Jewish rituals have been around for thousands of years, baby naming isn't one of them. A baby naming is also called Simchat Bat (celebration of a daughter) and Brit Bat (daughter's covenant) in Hebrew. But the idea behind it – that all Jewish people are responsible for helping to transform and repair our uncompleted world – is a core value. Today our daughter takes her place alongside generations of women who have already begun the work of making the world a better place. Frankly, we think she's off to a great start. 😊

**ALL:** Brucha ha'ba'a b'shem Adonai, blessed is she who comes in God's name.

## WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD

ROBERT THIELE, GEORGE DAVID WEISS (SING TOGETHER)

I see trees of green, red roses too  
I see them bloom, for me and you  
And I think to myself what a wonderful world  
I see skies of blue, and clouds of white  
The bright blessed day, dark sacred night  
And I think to myself what a wonderful world  
The colors of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky  
Are also on the faces, of people going by  
I see friends shaking hands, sayin', "How do you do?"  
They're really sayin', "I love you."  
I hear babies cryin', I watch them grow  
They'll learn much more, than I'll ever know  
And I think to myself what a wonderful world  
Yes, I think to myself  
What a wonderful world

## OUR HOPES FOR YOU

SHELLEY NICELEY GROFF

As you travel along the path that will be your life, may you walk on firm ground, with the wind at your back and the sun shining gently on your face.

May your mind, body and hands be strong, and may their work be guided by both the wisdom of your soul and the compassion of your heart.

May you draw from the strength and wisdom of our tradition, and those who came before you, and make them your own.

May you have beautiful dreams which inspire you and may your pursuit of those dreams be fulfilling.

(CONTINUED)

May your successes be many, and when you don't succeed, may you learn and grow from the experience, and go on.

May you always give yourself the gift of learning something new.

May you have the courage of conviction and patience to fight for what you know to be right.

May you laugh often.

May you always go to sleep at night with that feeling of satisfaction that comes from a day well lived.

May you always have peace in your home and in your heart.

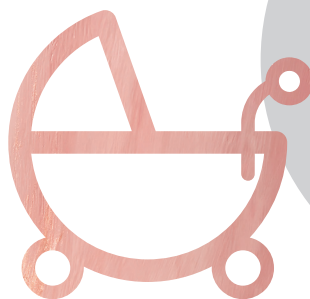
May you know unbridled joy, and may your sorrows be few and far between.

May you find true, enduring love, and may you be blessed with children as wonderful as you.

May you always have good friends.

May you always feel the love of family and friends as you take your place among the Jewish people of your generation.

May you live a long, healthy, happy, and peaceful life, and may you be the change you want to see in the world.



The hardest  
of all is learning to  
be a well of affection  
and not a fountain,  
to show children that  
we love them,  
not when we  
feel like it, but  
when they do.

NAN FAIRBROTHER

## WITH ALL MY HEART (BLESSING FROM THE PARENTS)

BY RABBI MAGGIE WENIG, ADAPTED FROM THE POEM BY RABBI JUDY SHANKS

With all my heart, with all my soul, with all my might.

I am thankful for the gift of this wonderful child.

I thank you for a healthy pregnancy, a safe delivery and speedy recovery.

With all my heart, with all my soul, with all my might.

I hope for the continued health of this child.

I hope for her to be strong in mind and body,

To grow steadily and sturdily in a home filled with joy.

I hope for her to become a person who greets the world

With passion, courage, humility, humor and patience.

With all my heart, with all my soul, with all my might.

# THE STORY OF THE GUARANTORS

When Israel stood to receive the Torah, God said to them: "I am giving you my Torah. Give to me good guarantors that will guard it, and I shall give it to you." They said: "Our ancestors are our guarantors." God said: "Your ancestors are not sufficient guarantors. Yet bring me good guarantors, and I shall give you the Torah." They said: "Ruler of the Universe, our prophets are our guarantors." God said, "The prophets are not sufficient guarantors. Yet bring me good guarantors, and I shall give you the Torah." They said: "Here, our children are our guarantors." God said: "They are certainly good guarantors. For the sake of your children, I give you the Torah."

There are only  
two ways to live  
your life. One is as  
though nothing is a  
miracle. The other  
is as though  
everything  
is a miracle.

ALBERT EINSTEIN



## LISTEN TO THE MUSTN'TS

SHEL SILVERSTEIN

Listen to the mustn'ts, child, listen to the don'ts.  
Listen to the shouldn'ts, The impossibles, the won'ts.  
Listen to the never haves, then listen close to me.  
Anything can happen child, anything can be.

## KIDDUSH - BLESSING OVER THE WINE

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam,  
borei p'ree hagafen. Amen.

Blessed are You, God, Spirit of the Universe ,  
who creates the fruit of the vine. Amen.

## CANDLE LIGHTING

As we light these candles, we welcome new light and hope into our hearts and our community. May your life be filled with unconditional love, peace of mind, passion of heart and gentleness of soul. May the love and joy overflowing from our hearts help you grow into a light that helps brighten the world. Amen.



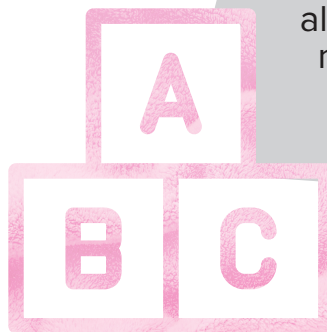
# TEACHING YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT GOD

DAVID WOLPE

There was once a woman who stood before God, her heart breaking from the pain and injustice in the world. “Dear God,” she cried out, “look at all the suffering, the anguish and distress in your world. Why don’t you send help?”

God responded, “I did, I sent you.”

## SHARING AND EXPLANATION OF THE BABY’S HEBREW NAME



Trust yourself.  
Create the kind  
of self that you will  
be happy to live with  
all your life. Make the  
most of yourself by  
fanning the tiny,  
inner sparks of  
possibility into  
flames of  
achievement.

GOLDA MEIR

## SHEHECHEYANU GENERIC PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam,  
shehecheyanu v'key'manu v'higiyanu lazman hazeh.

Praised are you, God, Spirit of the Universe,  
who keeps us alive, sustains us, and brings us to this moment.

## IF THERE'S FAMILY PRESENT WHO'S NOT JEWISH, YOU MIGHT WANT TO ADD THIS BLESSING: BLESSING FOR ANYONE WHO ISN'T JEWISH ('CAUSE WE KNOW THIS IS A LOT)

INSPIRED BY RABBI JANET MARDER

May everyone who shares in a Jewish life feel welcome and integrated. We lovingly acknowledge the diversity of our community and are deeply grateful for the love and support you provide by opening your heart to Judaism, no matter how big or small a part it is in your day. Your presence at this Jewish experience is valued. It is not taken for granted because not everyone in this broken world will sit at a Shabbat dinner or attend a Passover Seder. We are a very small people and history has made us smaller. As we once again see a rise in hatred and hear fear in the voices of our community, we are grateful for your presence. We pray with all our hearts that all you give to the Jewish people will come back to you and fill your life with joy. Amen.

## ADD WHEN READING TO A FAMILY RAISING KIDS:

We offer special thanks to those who are raising their sons and daughters with Jewish identity. Our children mean hope, life and future. With all our hearts, we want to thank you for your love and willingness in giving the ultimate gift to the Jewish people. Amen.

# AS YOUR EYES ARE FILLED WITH WONDER

DEBRA NUSSBAUM COHEN

As your eyes are filled with wonder when you gaze at the world, so, too, may you be filled with wonder at the everyday miracles of life.

As you startle to the world around you, so may you remain ever open both to the happiness and to the pain of those you encounter in the world.

As you cry for food and comfort now, so may you one day cry out to correct the injustices of the world, to help clothe the naked and feed the hungry.

As your hand tightly grasps your mother's finger, so may you grasp hold of learning and grow in knowledge and wisdom.

## HOLINESS AND LOVE

DEBRA NUSSBAUM COHEN

How are we able to perform countless acts of love as we are commanded?

How can we begin to obey such a difficult charge?

It is not such a mystery, really.

Every lullaby, every diaper change, every smile, every sleepless night, every wordless prayer of thanks for this perfect baby.

In these and the unending ways we care for and teach and protect our children, we perform countless acts of love.

And the world is made holier. And so are we.

Once you bring  
life into the world,  
you must protect it.  
We must protect it  
by changing  
the world.

ELIE WIESEL



## PLANTING THE SEEDS OF ETERNITY

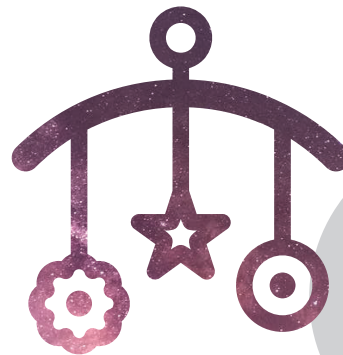
A TALMUD STORY

One day a sage was walking along a road, and he saw an old man planting a carob tree. The sage asked the man, "How long does it take for this tree to bear fruit?" The man replied, "Seventy years." The sage responded, "Are you certain that you will live another seventy years?" The man replied: "I found grown carob trees in the world; as my forefathers planted those for me, I too plant these for my children."

# MAY YOU ALWAYS FEEL LOVED

SANDRA STURTZ

May a kind word, a reassuring touch, and a warm smile be yours every day of your life, and may you give these gifts as well as receive them. Remember the sunshine when the storm seems unending. Teach love to those who know hate, and let that love embrace you as you go into the world. May you not become too concerned with material matters, but instead place immeasurable value on the goodness in your heart. Find time in each day to see beauty and love in the world around you. Realize that each person has limitless abilities, but each of us is different in our own way. What you may feel you lack in one regard may be more than compensated for in another. What you feel you lack in the present may become one of your strengths in the future. May you see your future as one filled with promise and possibility. May you find enough inner strength to determine your own worth by yourself, and not be dependent on another's judgment of your accomplishments. May you always feel loved.



It takes  
courage to  
grow up and  
become who  
you really are.

E.E. CUMMINGS

# ON CHILDREN

KAHLIL GIBRAN

Your Children are not your children.  
They are the sons and daughters of life's longing for itself.  
They come through you, but not from you.  
You may give them your love, but not your thoughts.  
For they have their own thoughts.  
You may house their bodies, but not their souls.  
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.  
You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.  
For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.

# HAMOTZI - BLESSING OVER THE BREAD

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam,  
hamotzi lechem min ha-aretz. Amen.

Blessed are you, God, Spirit of the Universe,  
Who brings forth bread from the earth. Amen.

# AMEN!

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For when you feel you don't