

Naming Day Readings

• Readings and Poems

Thus a Child Learns, by Frederick Moffitt
By wiggling skills through fingers and toes into herself
By soaking up habits and attitudes of those around herself
By pushing and pulling her own world
Thus a child learns
More through trial and error
More through pleasure than pain
More through experience than suggestion
More through suggestion than direction
Thus a child learns
Through affection, through love
Through patience, through understanding
Through belonging, through doing, through being
Day by day a child comes to know a bit of what you know
To think a little bit of what you think, to understand
your understanding.
That which you dream and believe and are,
In truth becomes the child.

Before You Came

What did we do, in the days before you came?
Vodka, and dancing, and staying out late
Breakfast at tea-time
Reading the papers, a long lie-in
And space in the bed

Now it's daisy chains, and super-heroes
Butterfly wings, and light-sabres
Eating pink cake
Naming stars
And catching snowflakes in our mouths
No room in the bed
And a half-sleep on its edge
While you snore, stretched out, a star-fish

Time escaping, before you came
And cast your spell
And filled the house with possibility;
All the things you want to do
And all the things you're going to be
So - let's make a den
Take our biscuits in
Carve lanterns at Hallowe'en
Watch grown-ups do star jumps on a trampoline
And wonder what we ever did
In the days before you came.

Our M ir ac l e

'Baby's Name'

If ever there was a reason
to believe that dreams come true,
we realize it every time
we lay our eyes on you.
For you are an angel
created by true love;
the perfect little gift
sent from above.

A treasure we never thought possible,
but we continued to hope and pray;
that God would find it in His heart
to give you to us one day.
God listened to our prayers
and proved what we hoped was true;

that miracles really can happen
and the reason we believe is . . . you!

A Tribute to Daughters Author Unknown

Every home should have a daughter
For there is nothing like a girl
To keep the world around her
In one continuous whirl
From the moment she arrives on earth,
And on through womanhood,
A daughter is a female
Who is seldom understood
One minute she is laughing
The next she starts to cry,
Man just can not understand her
And there is no use to try
She is soft and sweet and cuddly
But she is also wise and smart,
She is a wondrous combination
Of a mind and brains and heart
And even in her baby days
She is just a born coquette,
And anything she really wants
She manages to get
For even at a tender age
She uses all her wiles,
And she can melt the hardest heart
With the sunshine of her smiles

"If children live with hostility, they learn to fight./If children live with ridicule, they learn to be shy./If children live with tolerance, they learn to be patient./If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence./If children live with praise, they learn to appreciate./If children live with fairness, they learn justice./If children live with security, they learn faith./If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves./If children live with acceptance, and friendship, they learn to find love in the world." ~ Dorothy Law Nolte, Ph. D.

"I am the child, All the world waits for my coming, All the earth watches with interest to see what I shall become./Civilization hangs in the balance, For what I am, the world of tomorrow will be./I am the child, I have come into your world, About which I know nothing./Why I came I know not; How I came I know not; I am curious; I am interested./I am the child, You hold in your hand my destiny, You determine, largely, whether I shall succeed or fail./ Give me, I pray you, Those things that make for happiness./ Train me, I beg you, That I may be a blessing to the world." ~ Author Unknown

"May God bless and keep you always, May your wishes all come true, May you always do for others And let others do for you./May you build a ladder to the stars And climb on every rung./May you stay forever young." ~ Bob Dylan

"May the road rise to meet you, May the wind be always at your back. May the warm rays of sun fall upon your home And may the hand of a friend always be near. May green be the grass you walk on, May blue be the skies above you, May pure be the joys that surround you, May true be the hearts that love you." ~ Traditional Irish Blessing

"God made the world a precious gift more dear and pure than gold. With little toes to play with and tiny hands to hold. He sent this brand new person on moonlights reflected gleam, All wrapped up on a rainbow of wonder, hope and dreams."

Dorothy Law Nolte's poem, "Children Learn What They Live".
If a child lives with tolerance,

he learns to be patient;
If a child lives with encouragement,
she learns confidence;
If a child lives with praise,
he learns to appreciate;
If a child lives with fairness,
she learns justice;
If a child lives with security,
he learns to have faith in himself and in those around him.

"The Gift," a poem by Rabindranath Tagore.

I want to give you something, my child,
for we are drifting in the stream of the world.
Our lives will be carried apart, and our love forgotten.
But I am not so foolish as to hope that I could buy your heart with my gifts.
Young is your life, your path long, and you drink the love we bring you at one draught and turn and run away from us.
You have your play and your playmates. What harm is there if you have no time or thought for us?
We, indeed, have leisure enough in old age to count the days that are past, to cherish in our hearts what our hands have lost for ever.
The river runs swift with a song, breaking through all barriers. But the mountain stays and remembers, and follows her with his love.

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, and though they are with you yet they belong not to 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 carries with yesterday.
You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth. The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and He bends you with His might that His arrows may go swift and far. Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness; for even as He loves the arrow that flies, so He loves also the bow that is stable.

Daisies - Jack Warren

Daisy's aren't fragile
They're strong and bold
They dip themselves in sunlight, for the pleasure of us all.
Daisy's aren't delicate
They're tough and powerful
They only sway in the wind, to see the sun better.

The Example of Parenthood
There are little eyes upon you and they're watching night and day;
There are little ears that quickly take in everything you say;
There are little hands all eager to do everything you do,
And a little girl who's dreaming of the day she'll be like you.
You're little Isobelle's idol you're the wisest of the wise;
In her little mind about you no suspicions ever rise.
There's a wide-eyed little girl who believes you're always right,
And her ears are always open as she watches day and night.
You are setting an example every day in all you do.
For the little girl who's waiting to grow up to be like you.

In human history there is no deeper connection than that of a baby and her parents. As new parents, Mum and Dad's lives have changed forever. Before they were a couple in love, committed to each other in marriage. Now they have become a true family with that commitment extending to Isobelle. This is now a close and loving family unit. Families are important – the role of parenthood held in high regard. To be responsible for a new life strengthens the bond that Dad and Mum share and brings a strong purpose to their lives.
Mum has a poem to share with you

A Mother's Wish by Anon
I hope my child looks back on today
And sees a mother who had time to play.
There will be years for cleaning and cooking,
But children grow up when you're not looking.
Tomorrow I'll do all the chores you can mention
But today, my baby needs time and attention.
So settle down cobwebs; dust go to sleep,
I'm cuddling my baby, and babies don't keep.

Dad also has a poem he would like to share:

You are a princess in my heart, and I care for you so much. I love the fondness in your eyes and your tender little touch. I looked at you when you were born, and knew then straight away, that I would be forever here to watch you grow and play. You bring to me a heart of joy, and memories so great, and a powerful sense of fatherhood that no one can debate. I watch you sleep and dream of things that I can only wonder. That innocent look upon your face just makes my heart grow fonder. I see you run and jump and shout and calling out my name. No love that I have ever known could ever feel the same. No suffering or tragedy nor deeply seated pain could ever over shadow the bond that we retain. And so my little princess before you go to sleep, Remember I am your daddy and I am yours to keep.

Wishing you many smiles and happy times to come by Anon May life's adventures be exciting and sweet Filled with love from the friends that you'll meet You'll soon grow up for time does fly So cherish each moment as it goes by From crawling and walking To toddling and talking There's no knowing what you'll do next

There's a threshold to cross and a wide open door And a wonderful world for you to explore Sleep with the moonbeams and play in the sun Let your life be a long one and filled with fun May today and tomorrow and all days hereafter Be days that are happy and filled with your laughter.

Children Learn what they Live by Dorothy Law Nolte If children live with criticism, They learn to condemn; If children live with hostility, They learn how to fight; If children live with ridicule, They learn to be shy; If children live with shame, They learn to feel guilty; But

If children live with tolerance, They learn to be patient; If children live with encouragement, They learn to have confidence; If children live with praise, They learn to appreciate; If children live with fairness, They learn justice; If children live with security, They learn to have faith; If children live with approval, They learn to like themselves; If children live with love around them, They learn to give love to the world.

Anon

May all your wishes come true May you always do for others And let others do for you May you build a ladder to the stars And climb on every rung And may you stay forever young

May you grow to be righteous May you grow up to be true May you always know the truth And see the light that is surrounding you

May you always be courageous Stand upright and strong And may you stay forever young

May your hands always be busy And may your feet always be swift May you have a strong foundation When the winds of change shift May your heart always be joyful And may your song always be sung And may you stay forever young.

traditional Irish blessing May the road rise to meet you, May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, The rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of his hand. May God be with you and bless you; May you see your children's children. May you be poor in misfortune, Rich in blessings, May you know nothing but happiness From this day forward. May the road rise to meet you May the wind be always at your back May the warm rays of sun fall upon your home And may the hand of a friend always be near. May green be the grass you walk on, May blue be the skies above you, May pure be the joys that surround you, May true be the hearts that love you.

Poem, Your Name (Author unknown) You got it from your Father It was all he had to give So it's yours to cherish As long as you may live If you lose the watch he gave you It can always be replaced But a tarnish on your name, Son Can never be erased. It was clean the day you took it And a worthy name to bear When he got it from his father There was no dishonour there So make sure you guard it wisely After all is said and done You'll be glad the name is spotless When you give it to your Son

For the joy of summer sunrise And refreshing drops of rain We are thankful For the gift of each new morning And the chance to try again We are thankful For a child who smiles like sunshine And whose

cuddles conquer pain We are thankful For life's harmonies and discords For life's comfort and its strain We are thankful For this child who brings fresh feelings And new reasons for each day We are thankful For his eyes that speak with meaning That mere words cannot convey We are thankful For the hours and the minutes And the seconds of each day We are thankful For friends' smiles and warming handshakes When they don't know what to say We are thankful For the strength of love here present May it never fade away. We are thankful for all of these things.

Follow Your Dreams When others say "It's hopeless and it really can't be done." When they tell you "It's all over. It's a race that can't be won." And they promise "You could spend your life just lying in the sun." Follow your dreams boy. Follow your dreams! When the people you admire, but who wouldn't understand, Tell you "Other roads are safer. Your dreams are much too grand." Or the doubters and the tempters try to take you by the hand. Follow your dreams boy. Follow your dreams! You should listen to the counsel of the people that you trust. But don't be turned aside just because they might get fussed You live the life that in your heart you know you really must. Follow your dreams boy. Follow your dreams! There is nothing you can't conquer if you believe you can. No mountains you can't straddle, no oceans you can't span. Just conjure up a vision and set yourself a plan. Follow your dreams boy. Follow your dreams! Jim Boswell 10/97

I want you to be happy! I want you to be happy. I want you to fill your heart with feelings of wonder and to be full of courage and hope. I want you to have the type of friendship that is a treasure - and the kind of love that is beautiful forever. I wish you contentment: the sweet, quiet, inner kind that comes around and never goes away. I want you to have hopes and have them all come true. I want you to have a real understanding of how unique and rare you truly are. I want to remind you that the sun may disappear for a while, but it never forgets to shine. May the words you listen to, say the things you need to hear. And may a cheerful face lovingly look back at you when you happen to glance in your mirror. I wish you the insight to see your inner and outer beauty. I wish you sweet dreams. I want you to have times when you feel like singing and dancing and laughing out loud. I want you to be able to make your good times better and your hard times easier to handle. I wish I could find a way to tell you - in untold ways - how important you are to me. Of all the things I'll be wishing for, wherever you are and whatever I may do, there will never be a day in my life when I won't be wishing for the best... for you. On Being A Grandparent. It's very special to be ????? Grandma! I'm not an everyday event - we have to make special arrangements to see each other - and if I weary of childish behaviour, then I know that we shall eventually part again, so I can afford to be tolerant. It's like having all the joys of parenthood without the pains! I will always greet ????? with love in my heart. I will pick her up when she falls and soothe away any tears. I will endeavour to answer the "why?" questions as she tries to make sense of her world. I will rejoice in her achievements - and probably tell them to anyone prepared to listen to my pride. While I have health and strength, I will do my utmost to ensure that no harm befalls ?????, that she always knows that she is loved and that she knows she can turn to me at any time for advice or consolation.

Footprints

Someday I'll jump through puddles,
Take a stroll or run a race.
Someday I'll walk accross the street
Or maybe walk in space.
Someday I'll scale a mountain
Or I'll join the ballet corps.
Someday I'll walk a tightrope
Or explore the ocean floor.
Someday these feet will do some things
That only heaven knows
But for today they're happy
Just to wiggle their toes!

I am so very special

I am so very special
I have been from the start
Before they held me in their arms

My family held me in their hearts
And like a single drop of rain
That on still waters fall
My life and love will ripples make
And touch the lives of all
So read this precious story
As step by step I grow
I am a special blessing and a gift
As each page here will show.

“What is a boy”

A boy is an explorer from his early days,
Who finds fun and adventure in the most surprising ways.
He’s a builder of wooden blocks,
A Climber of trees,
A teller of jokes and stories,
With a grin that sure to please

He’s a friend of little creatures,
Like puppies, frogs and bugs,
He’s a player of almost any game,
A winner of hearts and hugs.

He’s a dreamer of great dreams,
The futures hope and joy.
He’ll bring you worlds of happiness,
That wonderful little boy.

Parents Wish - by Diane Smith

We wish you a childhood full of fun and games,
And we wish you memories that have little pain.
We wish you to learn by making mistakes,
We wish you to love and never to hate.

We wish you the strength to make up you own mind,
But we wish that your heart will be gentle and kind.
We wish you to reach out when a friend needs a hand,
And we wish you help him to face life’s demand.

We wish you what life brings you, some ups and some downs,
But we wish you will smile much more than you’ll frown.
We wish you will taste life’s “sweet smell of success”
Only to find no replacement for true love and happiness.

We wish life will teach you to stand on your own,
But we wish you to know that you’re never alone.
We wish you success in all that you do,
And we hope that all of your dreams will come true

But the one thing above and beyond all of this,
Is the love that is felt by “This Parents Wish”.

THE PROPHET - Khalil 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
And though they are with you yet they belong not to you, 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 can not 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.

You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.

The archer sees the mark on the path of the infinite
And he bends you with his might that his arrows may go swift and far
Let your bending in the archers hand be for gladness
For as he loves that arrow that flies,
So he loves also the bow that is stable.

A TRIBUTE TO ALL DAUGHTERS”

by Helen Steiner Rice

Every home should have a daughter
for there's nothing like a girl,
To keep the world around her
in one continuous whirl....

From the moment she arrives on earth,
and on through womanhood,
A daughter is a female
who is seldom understood....

One minute she is laughing
the next she starts to cry,
Man just can't understand her
and there's just no use to try.....

She is soft and sweet and cuddly
but she's also wise and smart,
She's a wondrous combination
of a mind and brains and heart....

And even in her baby days
She's just a born coquette,
and anything she really wants,
she manages to get....

For even at a tender age
she uses all her wiles,
and she can melt the hardest heart
with the sunshine of her smiles.

“The Garden of Life” by Maggie Dent.

Children are seedlings in the garden of life.

They need sunshine and warmth
when they are cold and sad;

They need water and nourishment
when they are thirsty and hungry.

They need attention and care,
when they are challenged by life.

And the need to be loved, appreciated
and held in awe of their potential,
to be unique, beautiful and like no other.

Search for the hero within yourself

and then be there for our kids.
Please feel, listen and care
with your heart and soul and
you will become
A valued gardener in
the garden of life and one day,
A child may hold a special memory of you forever,
hidden deep in their heart.

“CHILDREN LEARN BY WHAT IS LIVED” By Dorothy Law Nolte.

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.
If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.
If children live with ridicule, they learn to be shy.
If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.
If children live with tolerance, they learn to be patient.
If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.
If children live with fairness, they learn justice.
If children live with security, they learn to have faith.
If children live with acceptance and friendship,
They learn to find love in the world.
Advice to My Child on Growing Up in Life. by Larry. S. Chengges.

You are unique, my child.... a wonderful addition to life for there is no one else like you.
You are important...believe it....know it.
Search your heart and be willing to try new things....Don't be afraid to be different... follow your
feelings and be proud.....be happy.
Reflect your feelings, your hopes and your dreams.... You have much to contribute and other people
can learn from you. Take your time... and please, don't hurry.
You must reach out and help others to grow... for the more you give, the more you receive.
Your time on earth is a measure of progress, year by year.. for each year will present new and
different opportunities...
Enjoy what is beautiful in life, my child, and try to achieve the highest goals in life... to love, to care, to
give, to share.

ALWAYS BELIEVE IN YOURSELF by Susan Polis Schultz

Get to know yourself –
What you can do and what you cannot do –
For only you can make your life happy.

Believe that by working, learning and achieving
You can reach your goals
And be successful.

Believe in your own creativity
As a means of expressing
Your true feelings.

Believe in appreciating life.
Be sure to have fun everyday
And to enjoy the beauty in the world.

Believe in love.
Love your friends, your family,
Yourself and your life.

Believe in your dreams
And your dreams can become reality

Poem from Sanskrit:

Look to this day,
For it is life, the very life of life.
In its brief course lie all the
Varieties and realities of your existence:
The bliss of growth,
The glory of action,
The splendour of beauty:
For yesterday is but a dream
And tomorrow is only a vision,
But today well lived makes
Every yesterday a dream of happiness.
And every tomorrow a vision of hope.
Look well therefore to this day!
Such is the salutation of the dawn.

Through Baby's Eyes Author Unknown

I didn't expect a brass ban,
With welcome mat unfurled,
To be on hand when I arrived,
In this confusing world.

Nor did I expect a doctor,
To hold me by the feet,
Then quickly turn me upside down,
And spank me on the seat.

At first I wasn't quite prepared,
For this enormous place,
Nor for the funny characters,
That I would have to face.

But I soon learned to get my way,
By looking sweet and shy,
And I wanted to be held,
To make a fuss and cry.

I've found it really doesn't take,
Much difficulty or quile,
To wrap them round my finger,
All I need to do is smile.

THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL

We give you the greatest gift of all,
a headstart that will last throughout your life

We shall do our best to teach you,
but it will be up to you to learn

We shall try to guide you in the right directions,
but it will be up to you to make the right decisions

We shall also encourage you to seek your own independence
but it will be up to you to be responsible

We shall tell you about 'drink and drugs',
but it will be up to you to say 'no'

We shall teach you about respect,
but you will choose whether to appreciate it's value

We shall encourage you to try,
but you should want to succeed for yourself

We shall teach you kindness,
but it will be up to you to be good-natured

We shall teach you to share,
but it will be up to you to be unselfish

We shall model values for you.
but you have to develop your own morals

We give you this knowledge as a gift
with all our love.

A Recipe for Dreaming

Nature formed you with perfect feet and hands and a heart that beats non-stop, sometimes for a hundred years. You were made complete. You have inherited a thousand generations of wisdom, skill, poetry, song, all the sunrises and sunsets of knowledge past. You are the sum of all the people who went before you.

You are a refinery of all inherited intellectual wealth, the full flood of antecedent wisdom is piped and stored within you - how to climb the highest mountain, slay the biggest monster, how to survive fear and how to summon your own courage and take pride in your wonderful intelligence.

Inside you are more possibilities than you could possibly use up in one lifetime.

If you can dream it, you can do it, because the instinctive knowledge of how to succeed is already programmed within you waiting to be turned on, it is waiting to flow like a river as you come on stream.

A Parent's Love

A parent's love is something that no one can explain
It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain,
It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it or take that love away...

It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking,
It never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking
It believes beyond believing when the world around condemns
It glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems

It is far beyond defying, it defies all explanation,
It still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation.
A many splendour miracle...man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence of Life's tender guiding hand.

My Wishes for You.

May the sun forever shine on you
to warm you through your day.
May the stars above shine in the night
to help you find your way.

May the breeze blow gently through the trees
singing to you it's song.
May the Lord and Lady watch over you

Throughout the whole day long.

May the angels sing you their lullaby
as you enter into sleep.
May your dreams be filled with happiness
May you never weep.

May your life be filled with laughter and joy
May your worries and troubles be few
May you always be with the ones you love
These are my wishes for you.

PARENT'S PLEDGE

I promise to . . .

Listen to my children and communicate with my children. Teach my children right from wrong.

Be a good role model for my children.

Spend time with and pay attention to my children.

Educate my children in mind, body, and soul.

Work to provide a stable family life for my child/en.

Vote for my children to ensure them fair opportunity. Speak out for my and other people's children needs.

DEAR CHILD

I wish you the gift of empathy - the ability to stand in another's shoes and know their needs.

I wish you kindness - given as a gift and not as an obligation.

I wish you perception – to see without bigotry or self-esteem.

I wish you courage in all the hard times you will meet - a heart and mind that learns from failure - and finds hope even at the edges of despair.

I wish you praise for work well done, the satisfaction of achievement, the joy of creation.

I wish that you become a person that shines with kindness and intelligence and love of life.

I wish you an exploratory mind and respect for the beliefs of others.

I wish you the love that changes and grows with every year that passes.

TO THE CHILD

This is your special day, although you will not remember it or even know what it means. Yet, we want you to know that we are all here for you, not just for today, but every day that we possibly can for the rest of your life.

Parents, relatives and friends gathered here today, have so many wishes for you. Too many to list. Noble wishes for honesty, kindness and wisdom. Material wishes for wealth, health and good looks. Well some wishes come true and some don't. However much we want to, we can't protect you from all life's hurts. One day you'll understand why. So, more than all our wishes and hopes, there's one thing we can promise you: that we will always be here to support and help you, in good times and in bad.

To show a child what has once delighted you, to find the child's delight added to your own, so that there is now a double delight seen in the glow of trust and affection, this is happiness.

What children are looking for is a hug, a lap, a kind word, a touch, someone, to read them a story, somebody to smile and share with.

A MOTHER'S WISH

I hope my child looks back on today

And sees a parent who had time to play.

There will be time for cleaning and cooking But children grow up when you're not looking. So settle down, cobwebs; dust, go to sleep

I'm cuddling my baby, and babies don't keep.

BRAND NEW LITTLE SON / DAUGHTER

He's / She's your brand new little son / daughter, So enchanted sweet and smart.
With a coo, he'll / she'll have you smiling.
With a laugh, he'll / she'll own your heart.

It's the time for hugs and kisses. Reassurance when he / she cries. It's the time for making moments
Full of love and Lullabies.

For these golden days of childhood
come and go so very fast –
Hold him / her tight and love him / her dearly. Make these precious moments last.

FOOTPRINTS

"Walk a little slower daddy" said a child so small.
"I'm following in your footsteps and I don't want to fall

Sometimes your steps are very fast, Sometimes they're hard to see;
So walk a little slower, Daddy,
For you are leading me.

Someday when I'm all grown up, You're what I want to be;
Then I will have a little child Who'll want to follow me.

And I would want to lead just right, And know that I was true;
So, walk a little slower, Daddy,
For I must follow you."

CELTIC BLESSING

May the strength of the wind and the light of the sun, The softness of the rain and the mystery of the
moon Reach you and fill you.
May beauty delight you and happiness uplift you, May wonder fulfil you and love surround you.
May your step be steady and your arm be strong, May your heart be peaceful and your word be true.
May you seek to learn, may you learn to live,
May you live to love, and may you love – always.

POEM FOR A CHILD

Little miracle, born out of love into love,
I give you the world, at your feet, in your hands Spinning in colours like the kaleidoscope of your eyes
A world of wonders, dreams and distant lands.

Little child, whose smile warms a room like sudden sunshine Take this world and climb the mountains
with your head held high Walk tall on the peaks in the dazzle of crisp new snow
Look down at the valleys but aim for the sky.

Little child, take this world and bravely sail its stormy seas Captain a ship that's strong, with a map
and compass of your own, Choose a crew with care to fight the monster of the deep
And keep your anchor ready for a haven you can call home.

Little child, round-bottomed, soft-skinned and chubby-limbed With lips that melt petal-soft in the
caress of your mother's breast And tiny hands that touch everything with wonder,
Make peace your mission and treat this world with gentleness.

Little child, your father made you, your mother bore you, This world is yours, a gift from those already
older
And as you grow and your steps are stronger, bolder
And when our days fade, are darker, colder May you too find a love that's bright and free And hold
your own child on your knee.

BABY'S NAMING DAY

(Name) – bright as a flower. Lovely child, we welcome you Into our world, into our lives
On this your special naming day.

(Name) – happy little spirit.

Smiling child, we wish you joy

And health and strength and love and peace On this your special naming day.

(Name) – lively little boy / girl.

Perfect child, we send you our blessings

For a long and happy life, energy and freedom, On this your special naming day.

(Name) – our love goes out to you precious child with eyes so wide, waving arms and dancing feet,
and busy hands which hold so tight on this your special naming day.

Wish list by Colin McCarty

Of all the things we wish for you, we would give anything if these wishes could always come true.....

We want you to be happy.

We want you to fill your heart with feelings of wonder and to be full of courage and hope.

We want you to have the type of friendship that is a treasure – and the kind of love that is beautiful forever.

We wish you contentment: the sweet, quiet, inner kind that comes around and never goes away.

We want you to have hopes and have them all come true.

We want you to make the most of this moment in time.

We want you to have a real understanding of how unique and rare you really are. We want to remind you that the sun may disappear for a while, but it never forgets to shine.

We want you to have faith.

May you have feelings that are shared from heart to heart, simple pleasures amidst this complex world, and wonderful goals that are within your grasp.

May the words you listen to say the things you need to hear. And may a cheerful face lovingly look back at you when you happen to glance in your mirror.

We wish you the insight to see your inner and outer beauty.

We wish you sweet dreams.

We want you to be able to make your good times better and your hard times easier to handle.

We want you to have millions of moments when you find satisfaction in the things you do so wonderfully.

And we wish we could find a way to tell you, in untold ways, how important you are to us.

Of all the things we'll be wishing for, whatever you are and whatever we may do, there will never be a day in our life when we won't be wishing for the best for you.

Night night, Mummy - see you later

At seven o'clock every evening my Mum tucks me up in my bed. I'm nice and snug in my 'jamas, beside me my faithful old Ted.

I always nod off very quickly – before Mum has turned out the light, But when it's her bedtime much later, well then I wake up for the night.

For there's no time of day I like better than the hours between midnight and three, For Mum hasn't got any housework and can give her attention to me.

And when I start yelling and shouting, Mum knows that she has to be quick, For the night when she leaves me to grizzle is the night I decide to be sick.

But Mum can't mind in the slightest at being my playmate 'til two-

She'd normally spend this time sleeping, for she's nothing much better to do.

Some nights she mixes a cocktail from the bottles she keeps on the shelf, Which sometimes she gives me to swallow –and sometimes she gulps down herself!

And if in the morning I'm sleepy, and feel in the need of a perk,

I can have forty winks in my pushchair while Mummy gets on with her work.

But nothing's as nice as the night time, and nothing can equal the pleasure, Of finding it's four in the morning and being Mum's wide-awake treasure.

Being Small

Sometimes I just hate being small, when everybody else is tall.
I think the world is most unfair, with me down here and them up there.
It's awful when a juicy peach, is in a bowl far out of reach.
Or parents have safely put away the toys with which I want to play.
It's terrible to have to stretch, for everything you want to fetch.
While bigger people help themselves, to things from off the highest shelves.
Perhaps it might be less unfair, if they were kind of stuck up there,
And had to wait 'till I came round, to give them things from off the ground.
But no, they can easily bend, to fetch and carry, make and mend, While if I want to reach that cup, I
have no way of bending up!

Welcome

Welcome to sunlightWelcome to the soft rain on your face
Welcome to the rush of the windWelcome to the hush of the sea
Welcome to much joy and a little sorrowWelcome to birdsong
Welcome to music and laughterWelcome to the leaves on the tree
Welcome to the miracle of wordsWelcome to the whispering of rivers
Welcome to dreamingWelcome to everything you can see and name
Welcome to your mother's careWelcome to your father's smile
Welcome to the love of all hereWelcome to the world
Selina Denton

Urgent Note To My Parents

Don't ask me to do what I can't doOnly ask me to do what I canDon't ask me to be what I can't beOnly
ask me to be what I am
Don't one minute say "Be a big girl" And the next "You're too little for that" PLEASE don't ask me to be
where I can't be PLEASE be happy with right where I'm at

Brothers

Life gave me a brother to teach me about life he loves and aggravates me and gives me strength and
strife.
Thank goodness for little brothers they are special as can be don't mess with my little brother, or you'll
have to deal with me!

Children

If children live with criticism they learn to condemn. If children live with hostility they learn to fight. If
children live with ridicule they learn to be shy. If children live with shame they learn to feel guilty.
If children live with tolerance they learn to be patient. If children live with encouragement they learn
confidence. If children live with praise they learn to appreciate. If children live with fairness they learn
justice. If children live with security they learn to have faith. If children live with approval they learn to like
themselves. If children live with acceptance and friendship they learn to find love in the world.
Dorothy Law Nolte

Patience

Give me patience when little hands tug at me with small demands, Give me gentle words and smiling
eyes and keep my lips from sharp replies, So in the years to come when my house is still, beautiful
memories, its rooms may fill.

Extract from 'Education of the Affect'

Accept me. Accept my tears. Accept my delight. Accept my exhilaration. Love me as I am. Let me
be. I'm O.K. I'm complete. I have everything I need. Don't force me to be like you. Don't force me to be
different from you. Don't force me at all. Your needs are not my needs. Look after your own
needs. Admire me. Like me. Enjoy me. You are my everything. I love you always. You are the sunshine
of my life. You are mine forever. Slow down. Be with me. Let me see you. Let me be with you. Open up
to me. Show me yourself. Let me see who you are. Trust me. Trust yourself. Love me. Love yourself.
John Heron

Who left Grandad at the Chip Shop?

Who left Grandad at the chip shop? Who poured syrup down the sink? Which one left the freezer open? Why don't any of you think?

Why's the rabbit in the wardrobe? How did Marmite get up there? What's this melted biro doing? Don't you know that socks should pair?

When's this filthy games' kit needed? Where's the barbecue fork gone? -Our house is a haze of questions, best not answer every one.

Dr Seuss 'Oh the Places You'll Go':

Congratulations!

Today is your day.

You're off to Great Places!

You're off and away!

You have brains in your head.

You have feet in your shoes

You can steer yourself

any direction you choose.

You're on your own. And you know what you know.

And YOU are the guy who'll decide where to go.

You'll look up and down streets. Look 'em over with care.

About some you will say, "I don't choose to go there."

With your head full of brains and your shoes full of feet,
you're too smart to go down any not-so-good street.

And you may not find any

you'll want to go down.

In that case, of course,

you'll head straight out of town.

It's opener there

in the wide open air.

Out there things can happen

and frequently do

to people as brainy

and footsy as you.

And when things start to happen,

don't worry. Don't stew.

Just go right along.

You'll start happening too.

OH!

THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!

You'll be on your way up!

You'll be seeing great sights!

You'll join the high fliers

who soar to high heights.

You won't lag behind, because you'll have the speed.

You'll pass the whole gang and you'll soon take the lead.

Wherever you fly, you'll be the best of the best.

Wherever you go, you will top all the rest.

Except when you don't

Because, sometimes, you won't.

I'm sorry to say so

but, sadly, it's true

and hang-ups

can happen to you.

You can get all hung up

in a prickly perch.

And your gang will fly on.

You'll be left in a Lurch.

You'll come down from the Lurch

with an unpleasant bump.
And the chances are, then,
that you'll be in a Slump.
And when you're in a Slump,
you're not in for much fun.
Un-slumping yourself
is not easily done.
You will come to a place where the streets are not marked.
Some windows are lighted. But mostly they're darked.
A place you could sprain both you elbow and chin!
Do you dare to stay out? Do you dare to go in?
How much can you lose? How much can you win?
And IF you go in, should you turn left or right...
or right-and-three-quarters? Or, maybe, not quite?
Or go around back and sneak in from behind?
Simple it's not, I'm afraid you will find,
for a mind-maker-upper to make up his mind.
You can get so confused
that you'll start in to race
down long wiggled roads at a break-necking pace
and grind on for miles across weirdish wild space,
headed, I fear, toward a most useless place.
The Waiting Place...
...for people just waiting.
Waiting for a train to go
or a bus to come, or a plane to go
or the mail to come, or the rain to go
or the phone to ring, or the snow to snow
or waiting around for a Yes or a No
or waiting for their hair to grow.
Everyone is just waiting.
Waiting for the fish to bite
or waiting for wind to fly a kite
or waiting around for Friday night
or waiting, perhaps, for their Uncle Jake
or a pot to boil, or a Better Break
or a sting of pearls, or a pair of pants
or a wig with curls, or Another Chance.
Everyone is just waiting.
NO!
That's not for you!
Somehow you'll escape
all that waiting and staying.
You'll find the bright places
where Boom Bands are playing.
With banner flip-flapping,
once more you'll ride high!
Ready for anything under the sky.
Ready because you're that kind of a guy!
Oh, the places you'll go! There is fun to be done!
There are points to be scored. There are games to be won.
And the magical things you can do with that ball
will make you the winning-est winner of all.
Fame! You'll be famous as famous can be,
with the whole wide world watching you win on TV.
Except when they don't.
Because, sometimes, they won't.
I'm afraid that some times

you'll play lonely games too.
Games you can't win
'cause you'll play against you.
All Alone!
Whether you like it or not,
Alone will be something
you'll be quite a lot.
And when you're alone, there's a very good chance
you'll meet things that scare you right out of your pants.
There are some, down the road between hither and yon,
that can scare you so much you won't want to go on.
But on you will go
though the weather be foul
On you will go
though your enemies prowl
On you will go
though the Hakken-Kraks howl
Onward up many
a frightening creek,
though your arms may get sore
and your sneakers may leak.
On and on you will hike
and I know you'll hike far
and face up to your problems
whatever they are.
You'll get mixed up, of course,
as you already know.
You'll get mixed up
with many strange birds as you go.
So be sure when you step.
Step with care and great tact
and remember that Life's
a Great Balancing Act.
Just never forget to be dexterous and deft.
And never mix up your right foot with your left.
And will you succeed?
Yes! You will, indeed!
(98 and 3/4 percent guaranteed.)
KID, YOU'LL MOVE MOUNTAINS!
So...
be your name Buxbaum or Bixby or Bray
or Mordecai Ali Van Allen O'Shea,
you're off to Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting.
So...get on your way!

Why I Love My Sister. The Importance Of A Sister

By Shiv Sharma

A sister is someone who loves you from the heart,
No matter how much you argue you cannot be drawn apart.
She is a joy that cannot be taken away,
Once she enters your life, she is there to stay

A friend who helps you through difficult times,
Her comforting words are worth much more than dimes.
A partner who fills your life with laughs and smile,
These memories last for miles and miles.

When she is by your side, the world is filled with life,
When she is not around, your days are full of strife.
A sister is a blessing, who fills your heart with love,
She flies with you in life with the beauty of a dove.

A companion to whom you can express your feelings,
She doesn't let you get bored at family dealings.
Whether you are having your ups or downs,
She always helps you with a smile and never frowns.

With a sister you cannot have a grudge,
She is as sweet as chocolate and as smooth as fudge.
Having a sister is not just a trend,
It is knowing you can always turn to her, your best friend.

Always There

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I'll always be here through thick and thin
You can come to me, I'll listen
I'm your friend, I won't push you away
When you need a hug, my arms are wide open
When you need to talk, I have an open ear
Your growing up and getting older
Know that I'm always here, I'm not going anywhere
Wherever you are, I'm there with you
You're in my heart and my prayers
Just know I'm here, because I truly care
You're my sister, you mean so much
Don't want to see you hurt or cry
I'll wipe the tears, I'll get rid of your fears
Want to see you grow up and achieve
Just believe, have faith
You can do anything
You're beautiful inside and out
You're smart and very talented
You're many things, but most all, you're my sister
I believe in you and know that I'll never stop loving you