

Rituals for Naming Day Ceremonies

- **songs**
- **naming candle**

Mother and Father will now light a Candle for Child's name

Parents (or other designated person(s) light a candle, and repeat the following words after the celebrant – in this example, the parents say the words.

Father: We promise to love and support you

Mother: We promise to be there for you

Father: We promise to listen to you and respect you

Mother: We promise to cherish and guide you

Father: We promise to help you learn right from wrong

Mother: We promise to show you how to respect others and the world around you

Father: We promise to be there whenever you need us

Mother: We promise to create a welcoming home for you and your friends

Father: And we promise to give you our love unconditionally as we welcome you into our lives

Together parents might light a candle for the baby as the celebrant pronounces

"Let us all join together in a blessing for (baby.)

For health, love and life let us all be thankful

For friends, family, homes and loved-ones, let us be thankful

For the beauty of this world, let us be thankful

(Baby), we officially welcome you to our world. We wish you a life of love and happiness in a peaceful world. We promise to love, nurture and support you and to create a healthy environment so you may reach your life's potential.

Let the lighting of this candle be an affirmation of this promise.

Let the lighting of the candle be symbolic of light and life."

We now ask her guardians, grandparents and aunts and uncles to join us to create 2 unique candles. Each member of family or guardian will have a container of coloured sand that will be poured into a vase to symbolise them joining together to love, support, reassure and guide Isobelle as she grows & develops. At the end of the ceremony you will have the opportunity of creating your own sand creation to remember this occasion.

- **butterfly release**
- **Plant a tree that will grow along with the child**

A tree planting can be a lovely way to mark your baby naming ceremony, and provide a meaningful symbol as both the tree and your baby grow. You could choose a tree based on its meaning, such as an olive tree for peace, or citrus for energy. A similar idea is to plant a section of your garden with plants that will bloom each year around your baby's birthday, as part the ceremony.

Many young couples today are buying a home or still establishing gardens when their children are born. A lovely idea is to include a tree planting in the ceremony. A tree, shrub, rose bush or the like is planted and a plaque is placed in front of it commemorating the day.

Guests can help plant the tree and as they place the soil into the ground, they can say a few words expressing their wishes for the child, or a bell could be rung as the tree is planted.

- **Release balloons/ write wishes on paper on balloons and release them**
- **Give reasons for the name chosen**

Meaning of name commemorative certificate - a detailed full colour, laminated certificate. The child's name is displayed at the top of the certificate, along with the name's origin and meaning. The rest of

the certificate could include details such as Emotional Spectrum; Personal Integrity; Personality; Relationships; Travel & Leisure; Career and Money; Life's opportunities; their lucky numbers, star sign and birth date.

- **Astrological chart about your child's life**

various charts are available depending on the level of detail you want.

- **Present symbolic gifts as keepsakes**

[MOTHER] and [FATHER] have chosen to gift [BABY] a bracelet of daisies in memory of this day. We put the bracelet on baby at this point, while my friend read the poem.

- **wishes and thoughts blankets or pillowcases**

- **wishing bear/ signature bear**

- **Bury a time capsule**

similar to the wishing box, personal and significant items can be placed within a container by each of the guests and/or family members. It could contain small gifts, photos, letters or cards. The capsule is presented on the child's 18th or 21st birthday.

Invite guests to bring an item which commemorates the date instead of a present e.g. a magazine or newspaper, a CD, the *Guinness Book of Records* or a coin collection.

Other contributions to the capsule may include runes and crystals to symbolise different things like peace and hope, pebbles from the family's favourite beach, Celtic symbols such as a horseshoe for good luck, cuff links that he may be a gentleman, a joke book that she may have a good sense of humour, or a pressed leaf that the child may appreciate nature.

The container is then sealed and if appropriate, buried in a place in the family yard. It is not always practical to bury a time capsule, so the chosen container can be stored by the parents.

- **Sand ceremony**

This ceremony can include children and other members of your family and creates a treasured unity vase filled with many colours. Family members can also recite special vows as part of the ceremony. The sand ceremony is perfect for when you would like to involve other children in the day. Using sand is a fun way to symbolise the loving union of the family with a new born or a child's new mum and dad.

Colours of Sand

Brown: The colour of earth and wood, signifying a solid and reliable soul. Brown helps to create a comfortable and open relationship. It personifies credibility, solidity, strength and maturity.

Blue: The colour of the ocean, symbolising trust, loyalty and one's dedication and commitment. Blue generates calm, tranquility and a peaceful environment for an everlasting relationship.

Red: The colour of love. Red ignites a warm, loving and passionate relationship, which encourages excitement and intensity — emotions not to be forgotten!

Yellow: The colour of the sun (meaning light), signifying consistency and joy! Yellow builds an optimistic, playful, positive disposition toward life, love and an ultimately a joyful relationship.

Green: The colour of nature, renewal and vigour. Green balances the forces of compassion, energy and wealth, leaving a lasting impression and a sense of wonder for a realistic and natural relationship.

Pink: The colour of happiness and tenderness. Pink is for the romantic softhearted soul, that has a calm inner-self. Pink inspires a playful and happy relationship.

Orange: The colour of autumn and the sunset, orange represents contentment and wholesomeness. A relationship wrapped in orange will be safe, fulfilled and undeniably warm.

White: Represents a clean and sanctified soul. Uplifting and refreshing wisdom are emotions that are evoked in a white relationship. The colour of innocence and peace.

Purple: The colour of loyalty, dignity and sophistication. Purple has unbelievable drive and passion. A very inventive soul chooses purple, which leads to a successful and prosperous relationship.

Celebrant: Like colours of the rainbow, we're all different and special, valuable and precious. Each of us has unique qualities and talents which makes us the individuals we are.

Today, we use colours to indicate the people making up (Baby's) life. They stand for (Baby's) (Father), (Mother), (Baby's Sister) and (Baby).

When these sands are blended together, these four people join in their commitment to (Baby) and to each other becoming an united family unit.

(Everyone pours the sand into the main jar)

The sand has now been joined together and cannot be isolated. These grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your family be a moulding of four individual personalities, bonded together in a loving, supportive family unit.

- **Ask guests to write a message/advice for life in a book for baby to read when he or she is older/ have pieces of paper for guests to write wishes and messages for the baby on (can include these in the invite) / video everyone's wishes**

A step more advanced than the advice book idea is where friends and family can make an offer of future wisdom or skills. Each guest offers to teach your child something, at some point in the future, such as: "come and see me when you're 10 and I'll teach you how to make the best lamingtons". Or, "I'll teach you how to drive when you're old enough". It can be a lovely way to involve people not only in welcoming your baby, but in your baby's life as well.

- **Photograph/ signature board**

Place a big photo of the child on a large board with a wide border near the front entrance of the venue, have one or two pens available and as guests arrive or at any time during the event, they can write their good wishes for the child anywhere around the photo.

Towards the end of the ceremony I would ask the guests, if they haven't done so yet, to add a few kind words blessing the child.

Later, this board can be laminated.

It becomes a beautiful reminder of the day and can be displayed in their room or the house.

- **Keepsake Boxes/ memory box/ wishing box**

Name of Parent & Name of Parent have decided to start a memory box for Name of Child.

Throughout his/her childhood they will place cards, documents, letters and other items, which will remain special memories for all of them. We initiate this activity today by placing in the box, the written wishes offered today by family and friends. They will add to this very special memory box throughout Name of Child's early years. Later, she/he can add to the box himself.

Each person at the ceremony is invited to place a note with a special wish or hope for the child into a wishing box. The box can be decorated and personalised to be used as a keepsake of the ceremony. Later, as the child grows and learns to read, or at a special birthday occasion, the wishing box can be opened and the messages read.

- **passing of family jewellery**

- **petal ceremony**

Within the ceremony parents can make promises to care for their child as best they can for as long as the child may need it, to thank grandparents and to acknowledge siblings in their new role as older brothers or sisters. Petals are sprinkled over the baby's head while the child's chosen names are announced and any reasons behind the choice can be shared.

Each colour of the petals represents different qualities and aspirations: innocence, friendships to come, tender love, compassion, happiness and fulfillment in life.

Shower of Petals

Celebrant: Today's ceremony recognises the many layered relationships that are being formed between (Baby) and the many people around her.

There is the first relationship between her parents and herself.

Then there is the relationship she has with grandparents.

She can also look forward to her relationship with her Life Guardians.

And last of all, there is the special relationship she will enjoy with her older sister.

These are many layered relationships which stretch from the past to the present and into the future.

Today, these relationships are symbolised by the wishing shower.

Celebrant: As the Life Guardians shower (Baby) with petals we wish that her ideals and heart remain untarnished and ever pure, with the wonders of childhood's innocence forever hers.

(Life Guardians toss the petals over (Baby))

Celebrant: The second wish is made by (Baby's) grandparents, from where the family begins. As the grandparents shower her with petals we wish for her a life filled with tender love and compassion.

The love that knows no bounds.

(Grandparents toss the petals over (Baby))

Celebrant: The third wish is made by (Baby's) older sister, who will be most involved in her life. As (Baby's Sister) showers (Baby) with petals we wish for her a life of many friends who will remain steadfast and unwavering in the years ahead.

(Baby's Sister) tosses the petals over (Baby)

Celebrant: The fourth wish is made by Isabella's parents, whose love for each other brought her into life. As the parents shower (Baby) with petals, we wish for (Baby) a passion for life forever kindled in her heart.

(Parents toss the petals over (Baby))

- **family tree book**

- **Gift Baskets**

- **hand/foot print**

easily done with non-toxic, washable ink, this is a simple and effective way of preserving an image of your child's hand or foot print as a memento of this special occasion. Couple it with a photograph and little poem for precious memories.

- **all guests touch the baby on the head with a daisy**

- **pass the baby**

A simple but lovely option. All your guests stand in a large circle, and the baby is passed from person to person, with each person saying a special welcome to your baby. Of course, this one doesn't work for all babies.

- **start a library**

This is for the less crafty people out there. Each guest brings their favourite children's book, and as part of the naming ceremony, explains why it's important to them and why they are giving it to your baby.

- **lantern ceremony**

This one works best at a nighttime baby naming ceremony. Each person writes their wishes and hopes for the baby, and ties them to a lantern. The lanterns are lit, and then floated on a lake or a stream, but here in Queensland your backyard pool will work a treat!