

Sample Naming Ceremony

Today Hannah's parents have invited us to take part in this ceremony to express their commitment to their baby, while recognising the challenges ahead of them.

But while a child is a demanding responsibility that often tests our patience and our understanding, it is also much more than that. A child brings joy, wonder and richness to our lives. What pleasure there is in the feel of a newborn baby nestling in our arms, the smile of a toddler responding to our love, the small outstretched arms reaching for a hug, and a tiny upturned face planting a wet kiss on our cheek.

Time will bring toys on floors and balls on lawns, a happy, healthy child playing in the yard. There will be bruises to kiss, report cards to praise, and drawings to display on refrigerator doors. A child brings pleasure and wonder into the lives of those who bring it into this world. But it also means great responsibility; for what the child becomes is largely what you, as parents bring into her life.

Little girls are the nicest thing that happens to parents. They are born with a little bit of angel-shine about them, and though it wears thin sometimes,

There is always enough left to capture your heart - even when they are sitting in the mud, or crying temperamental tears. A little girl can be sweeter (and Badder) oftener than anyone else in the world.

She can jitter around, and frazzle your nerves, yet just when you open your mouth, she stands there with that special look in her eye. A little girl is Innocence playing in the mud, and Beauty standing on its head.

She is loudest when you are thinking, prettiest when she has provoked you, busiest at bedtimes, quietest when you want to show her off.

She can mess up your home, your hair, your dignity - spend your money, your time and your temper - then just when your patience is ready to crack, her sunshine peeks through and you've lost again.

Affirmation by Grandparents

It is not always possible for grandparents to involve themselves in the development of their grandchildren - but when they do it is a great bonus and blessing.

The important role played by grandparents is the passing on of cultural values to children. They assist children to find their identity and their inner security - and to integrate themselves into society.

The special relationship of trust and mutual enjoyment which develops between child and grandparent is something very special. Through this relationship children learn their lineage, their history - and many values and skills.

This cultural inheritance lays the foundation for young persons to construct their personality during childhood and adolescence, and adds great meaning to their existence.

For this reason Hannah's parents wish to recognise and express their gratification that Hannah's grandparents and great grandparents are here today.

I also wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge those friends and family who could not be here in person, but who are here in spirit and in our hearts.

A mother'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,
And it never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking.
It believes beyond believing when the world around condemns
And it glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems.
It is far beyond defining, defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation.
A many splendoured miracle hard to understand
And another wondrous evidence of Life's tender guiding hand.

Celebrant:

Names are an important part of everyone's life, and names are what give each and every one of us individuality. Parents, what name have you chosen for your child?

Parents:

Hannah.

Celebrant:

Hannah, your name was chosen with great care, and it was chosen just for you. We all hope that you grow into a caring person who is healthy and happy, and with wisdom to help you all through life.

Parents, will you care for Hannah, keep her clothed, sheltered and protected, for as long as Hannah needs you, as best you can?

Parents:

We will.

Celebrant:

Will you comfort Hannah when she is distressed, laugh with Hannah when she is happy?

Parents:

We will.

Celebrant:

Will you try in every way possible to raise Hannah in such a way that she will feel loved and secure?

Parents:

We will.

Make of Hannah a happy person, teach her to value, and always search for the meaningful things in life; always search for the beauty that exists in the world, always search for the truth that she needs in order to live a good life, always search for the love she needs to develop into a kind and caring person.

Help to inspire her to appreciate knowledge and learning and to develop deep-seated love and respect for all people. Let her develop a sense of responsibility for her own life and a compassionate concern not only for the people she knows, but also for those who have not been born with her privileges.

Be wise and sensitive enough to help her become good, honest, caring, giving and loving individual.

This ceremony today has been held in recognition of the importance of marking the special events in our lives, to witness the giving of a name, and in honour of the newcomer amongst us. May we all benefit from our involvement with this child and each other.

We will now conclude the formalities of the day with the signing of the certificate.



Adrian Downey
NSW Celebrant