

## **Child Dedication Book**

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**Dear Parents**

**Congratulations on your new child.**

**We can create this service to reflect your view of parenting and your love for your new family. This is just a guide to give you an idea of what to plan.**

**I invite you to choose a song or poem or children's book to read as part of this celebration.**

**The service is generally simple**

**Opening Words**

**Prayer**

**Introduction**

**Calling of God's Parents**

**Commitment of God's Parents**

**A commitment of those present**

**Dedication (with water, flower)**

**Closing Words/Prayer**

**Benediction**

## **Example of a Child Dedication**

### **Prayer:**

Spirit of life, we are all your children. Out of the infinite nothing we have come to you and through you. We are old, yet ever new to the miracle of incarnation. Give us a chance to grow with this child in the warmth of unfailing love, into souls sensitive to beauty, hearts open to love and hungry for the imperishable values of life. Do not shrink and wither any one of us with fear but quicken with faith the springs of courage within us. Enter with us through the gates of wonder, into the wider perspectives of the morrow. Accept each and every one of our spirits as we grow into a fellowship of mutual respect and shared responsibility, that we in our turn may be worthy mothers and fathers of a new generation. Amen

### **Introduction**

The Ceremony in which we now share is both ancient and timeless. In all parts of the earth and from the earliest of recorded days parents have brought their children to place of worship, sharing their joy and dedication with those in the wider community.

Traditionally the element of water has played a symbolic part in this ceremony, for all life has arisen from the waters, and it is through water that life is sustained and flows forward like a river. Today we will use the water from....

This is also a time to recognize this child by name, for it is by our names that each of us is acknowledged as a unique and separate person. The flower with which we present today is also symbolic of the individuality we wish to affirm.

This is a public occasion shared by family and friends and this congregation to mark the fact that we all have a responsibility to care and nurture every child. It is our task to give them a world of peace and justice in which to grow. It is our task to share with them our ideals and hopes. It is our task to learn from them the zest and wonder of life with which all children come into the world, and which we too often lose later in life.

### **Address to the Parents**

\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ you have taken on a great responsibility in raising your son but I am certain you are up for the challenge. In presenting him at this service you invite all of us to share some of the joy and responsibility that is yours as his Parents.

Your task may not always be an easy one. The time may come when you will be called upon to sacrifice ambitions, deny yourself pleasure or set aside your own dreams so that

he may tread more surely the onward path of life. We recognize that you accept this service knowing that your own life will be fuller and richer in consequence.

Lisa and Lynn do you now promise that to the best of your human ability you will help your son to an appreciation of the truth and beauty and uprightness of character and love?

If so please respond by saying “We do”

Commitment of the Godparents

God Parents:

An old Jewish proverb says “in the time of travail, go to the friend of your father, go to the friend of your mother”. From this ancient wisdom comes the idea of godparents- the special people who dedicate their lives to watching out for the welfare of another’s children. It is in this noble tradition to which you commit yourselves this day.

In our complex world, it is not possible for even the most loving and capable parents to raise a child alone. If our children are to become loving and independent adults they need the wisdom, counsel love and support of many adult friends. You have been asked by (Parent’s Names) to accept this special honor and responsibility for their son.

Do you then, to the best of your abilities, intend to supplement the care and love of these parents, both in the day-to-day development of his spirit and especially in the event of any extraordinary need? If so please respond by saying “we do”

May this commitment and dedication enrich and ennoble your lives.

### **Poem/Story from the Parents**

#### **Naming**

(Parent’s Names) by what name is this child known?

I touch your young brow with water from old natures infinite sky, the water that touches every shore and nourishes every race of people. In so doing I dedicate your life and thought to the good of all human kind and to your own true growing.

I also give you this flower, unique in all its natural beauty, separate and distinct from all other flowers found in creation in attempt to express symbolically our hope that all your

life long you will unfold and blossom, just as you must, in your own unique and natural beauty.

May the blessings of an understanding heart, strength and integrity of purpose, and love received and given, be yours and remain with you as you go forward into an ever fuller life. Amen

As we have dedicated \_\_\_\_\_, so let us also dedicate ourselves this day. May this occasion work its miracle in our hearts, that we may mold our lives more and more in accordance with the beauty truth, goodness and love we wish for this sweet one.

### **Benediction for a Child Dedication**

May the light of love surround you,  
May the warmth of community embrace you,  
May the wisdom of many guide you,  
And may the joy of life always fill your heart.

As you journey through this world,  
May you be ever curious, ever kind,  
Seeking truth with open eyes,  
And creating beauty with loving hands.

May you know the peace that comes with belonging,  
The strength that comes with compassion,  
And the courage to be yourself  
In every moment of your life.

We, your family and community,  
Promise to walk beside you,  
To support you in your dreams,  
And to celebrate the person you will become.

May you always be held in the light of love,  
Now and forevermore.

Amen