



Celebrations

**Mazaltov
it's a girl**

Celebrating the birth and naming of

A Guide to enjoying your
Wonderful Simcha

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Our Daughter

Given name

Born on the

Civil date

Hebrew date

was given her Hebrew name

Hebrew name

In the

Shul

On

Date



A Wonderful Blessing

Before a child is born, one blesses a pregnant woman by saying b'sha'ah tova u'mutzlachat (may the birth be at a good and auspicious time)

Almost immediately a baby is born, he is blessed by his parents. (Shulchan Aruch 223:1) (Mishna Brura 223 Seif Katan 2)

On the birth of a boy, they recite the bracha

Baruch ata Ado-nai Elo-heinu melech ha'olam
hatov v'hametiv

Blessed are You, Ado-nai, our G-d, king of the universe who is good and does good

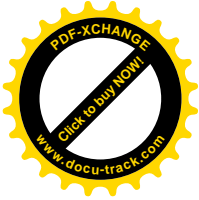
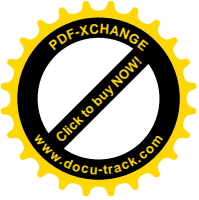
On seeing his daughter for the first time after her birth, the father recites the bracha

Baruch ata Ado-nai Elo-heinu melech ha'olam
she'hecheyanu vekiyemanu vehigi'anu la-zman hazeh
Blessed are You, Ado-nai, our G-d, king of the universe who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season

When a woman attends shul for the first time after having given birth to a son or daughter it is customary for her husband to receive an aliyah to the Torah. (Biur Halacha Siman 136 B'Shabbos)

Greeting the Happy Parents

The appropriate greeting on hearing of the birth of a child is mazaltov. One may add v'tizku legadlo/legadla l'Torah l'chupah u l'maasim tovim (may you merit to nurture him/her in the ways of Torah, to enter into marriage and to perform good deeds)



What's in a Name?

The Choice for a Lifetime

Much care and discussion should go into naming a child. Our Sages teach that a person's character may be known from his or her name, and that a name is the essence of the soul. We believe that the name is chosen with Divine inspiration (ruach Hakodesh). The Maharal points out that the words shem (name), and sham (there) have the same letters, indicating that one's name signifies where he is. The Gemara (Brachot 7b) tells us that names have an influence on their bearer.

The Midrash (Tanchuma, parshat Ha 'azinu) warns that one should be careful that the name he gives his child is befitting an upright person, since the child's name can influence his destiny. The influence of a name can transcend worlds. The Rebbe Reb Elimelech of Lizhensk writes that it's important to name a child after someone righteous, since there is a bond between the neshamah of the child and the neshamah of the person for whom he is named.

Making This Vital Decision

The parents have sole rights to choosing a name and should make the final decision regarding it. After all, if the parents are old enough to have a child, they are old enough to name him or her! Grandparents and family may give suggestions but not criticism.

The most important criterion for naming a child is shalom bayit (peace in the home). It should not become a power struggle or lead to unpleasantness, as any conflict arising from choosing a name can be dangerous to the unborn child and detrimental to his or her spiritual well-being. It is wiser to compromise rather than take this risk.

The chosen name for the child is kept confidential by the parents until the naming of a daughter in shul or until the bris for a son.



Mazaltov It's a Girl

The birth of a daughter is a joyous occasion at which the father recites a blessing of thanksgiving and praise to Hashem.

It is customary in most Jewish circles to name a daughter in shul during a service at which the Torah is read - some have the custom of doing this at the first Torah reading after their daughter is born, while others name her on the first Shabbat after she is born.

The father is honoured with an aliyah and thereafter a special mi she'beirach (blessing for the mother and the child) is recited, during which the father tells the baby's name to the person making the blessing.

The naming should be done by the father unless there are extenuating circumstances; in such a case consult the Rabbi.

The following information should be given to the gabbai of the shul:

- the Hebrew names of the father and of his father
eg Yakov ben Yitzchak
- the Hebrew names of the mother and her father
eg Sarah bat Abraham
- The Hebrew name of the newborn

As a courtesy to the gabbai, write the given names of the parents, grandparents and the child on the card.

A seudas mitzva or celebratory meal should be served when a girl is named. Some have the custom to host the kiddush on Shabbat morning after the service to celebrate the birth and naming of the newborn. A dvar Torah should be given at this celebration.

A suggestion has been made to invite family and friends to the home for a welcome party. This gives them the opportunity to wish mazaltov to the parents and see the baby instead of having a continuous flow of well-wishers, which disrupts the routine of the mother and the newborn baby girl.

For more info please call your rabbi or
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