

# *Naming Ceremony of .....*

*Date: .....*

Good morning everybody, my name is Adrian Downey and I would like to welcome you to the naming ceremony of ....., the son / daughter of ..... We gather here today to witness their commitment to parenthood and to officially welcome a new member into our community. We are here because of our relationship with them, for we are their community, their circle of people. We are the community with whom they celebrate life's special moments, and to whom they will turn in times of need. We are their extended family and friends and we honour their commitment to this new little one, who has changed their lives forever.

In this special circle, we are bound together by love and respect. Each and every one of us matters. When we leave here today, we will remain a part of this special circle. In everyday behaviour, it is more difficult to experience this specialness, so let this ceremony be a time when we commit to being more caring toward one another. As this child we name today is a newcomer, we all have at one time been newcomers. Like all of us, he needs us to open our circle and support him.

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 a 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 cheeks.

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 the fridge 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 his life.

To be a parent forces you to recognise that you are no longer a child. Claiming adulthood, we look at our children and see ourselves. We feel the temptation to help them succeed where we have failed. But as much as we seek to make them like us, we cannot. What we can do is see that they do their best. And as they grow, they will in turn be pushing us to grow with them. This we can do, if love them not for who they may become, but for who they are – unique and special.

Parenthood is the ultimate expression and the severest test of marriage. The greatest act of love parents have to give their children is the love they express for one another. The interactions between mother and father, husband and wife form the web of the relationship that serves as the child's nest. Children learn about men and women, communication, caring, respect, feelings, conflict and love by watching their parents.

Recognising this, you stand before us now to reaffirm your commitment to each other and to your son.

Reading by ..... can be added?

### **Blessing & Benediction**

#### **Reader one:**

Bless this little boy,  
Let him grow healthy and strong;  
And when he faces indecision,  
Help to show him right from wrong.

#### **Reader Two;**

Bless this little boy,  
Let love fill his life;  
And while you watch over him,  
Keep him free from strife.

#### **Reader Three;**

Bless this little boy,  
Keep him happy, safe and warm;  
And when he faces danger,  
Steer him away from harm.

### **Reader Four;**

Bless this little boy,  
Teach him patience and trust;  
And if he follows the wrong path,  
Show him that the life best lived is honest.

### **Reader Five;**

Bless this little boy,  
Let him discover the things he loves;  
And when his days are dark,  
Show him the beauty the world is made of.

### **Reader Six;**

Bless this little boy,  
Tell him not to be afraid;  
And if he feels hopeless  
Let his faith never fade.

### **Affirmation by Parents**

Welcome everybody to the ceremony that welcomes .....(baby) into his / her new family. ....(parents) are so happy that you could be here with them as their family and extended family, to share your love and your blessings with their beautiful child. And perhaps most importantly, we thank .... (baby) for bringing us all together in joy.

There are many ways to define a family. And although .....(parents and baby) are bonded physically by genetics, they are also bonded by something deeper. Their three souls have chosen each other as companions and teachers for their journey in this life, and this is the truest spiritual sense of family. In addition to that, all of you here are part of that same bond.

On a soul level, you have all chosen each other as family members, whether or not related by blood. And now that ... (baby) has joined the family and you're all here today, you can share your love in this special ceremony to make him / her welcome.

In the spirit of love, I ask you all to make a solemn vow to this special child. Do you agree to provide ..... (baby) with unwavering love throughout your lives, to support his highest endeavours, his growth and independence, and his wish to follow whatever path his heart chooses?

Everyone: I Do.

(Turn to face the four directions)

We turn to the east, the essence of air, to give us breath, openness, sight and understanding that each new moment is a new opportunity for growth.

We turn to the south, essence of fire, to empower us with passion, energy and light.

We turn to the west, essence of water, to deepen our spiritual awareness and our capacity for feeling emotion.

We turn to the north, essence of earth, to ground and centre us, and to give us a sense of home wherever we are.

We ask that this child be guided and blessed by his own instinct and inner light.

We wish for him the greatest love and peace, and the confidence and wisdom to find his own path in life.

As his family, we will help lead him to his own inner strengths, so that he may fulfil all of his desires and potential as he grows through life.

May the earth give him strength and security to help keep him grounded and focused.

May the winds give him the gift of communication to help him understand others and to let others understand him.

May the waters teach him to listen to his own intuition and to understand the depths of love and emotion.

And may the flames of passion spark creativity, exuberance and life force.

## **Naming Ceremony**

Celebrant – I now ask the mother of the child to bring him forward.

Family and friends, I ask you to look upon this child. He / she is one of the newest members of our family. He will grow strong and healthy surrounded by our love and nurturing. For him to be a part of our lives we must have a name by which to call him / her.

Celebrant: I now ask ..... (parents) – What is this child to be named?

Parents: This child is to be named .....

Celebrant: ..... (baby), welcome to our hearts and homes.

Celebrant: Will the Godparents please step forward?

Godparents, the parents of .... (baby) value your morals and believe that each of you have much you can teach ..... (baby).

They would ask that you serve as the teachers and guardians of ..... (baby) in the event that they are no longer able to.

Will you accept this responsibility and honour?

Godparents: We Do or we would be honoured to.

### **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 ..... (baby) parents wish to recognise and express their gratification that ..... (baby) grandparents are here today.

### **Presentation of Certificate**

I now present a certificate to the parents.

In our contact with ..... (baby) let us make it our responsibility to show by our action what it is to live life with integrity, honesty, fairness and love towards fellow human beings.

Being aware of how interrelated our lives are let us show (baby) that a good life is one where each of us is strengthened by the affection and friendship of others. May we all benefit from our involvement with this child and with each other.

I congratulate (parents) on the birth of their child and the Godparents on their willingness to share with them the care and concern for the welfare of ... (baby).

May his / her life be filled with all the good things of life; and in particular with the love and laughter of those who make up his world.

This now concludes the formal part of the ceremony.



Adrian Downey  
NSW Celebrant