

Naming Ceremonies
In
Renfrewshire Council

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Creating your Ceremony

Thank you for choosing Renfrewshire Council for your child's naming ceremony.

Your naming ceremony will be a special occasion created by you for your child. This booklet can offer some suggestions which you may choose to include in your ceremony.

In this booklet you will find a selection of readings and poems and also a variety of promises which can be made by parents, supporting adults/guardians and grandparents in addition to other suggestions which you may like to include in the ceremony. Please remember that these are only given as examples of material that can be included in your ceremony, and you are free to bring along your own material and make your own suggestions for the ceremony. It is important to remember that any material included in the ceremony must not have any religious content.

Registration Staff will be happy to help if you require any further assistance.

Readings

Night Night Mummy: See you Later

*At seven o'clock every evening my Mum tucks me up in my bed,
I'm nice and snug in my 'jamas, beside me my faithful old Ted.
I always nod off very quickly – before Mum has turned out the light
But when it's her bedtime much later, well then I wake up for the night.*

*For there's no time of day I like better than the hours between midnight and three
For Mum hasn't got any housework and gives her attention to me.
And when I start yelling and shouting, Mum knows she has to be quick
For the night when she leaves me to grizzle is the night I decide to be sick,*

*But Mum can't mind in the slightest at being my playmate much better 'til two –
She'd normally spend this time sleeping, for she's nothing much better to do.
Some nights she mixes a cocktail from the bottles she keeps on the shelf,
Which sometimes she gives me to swallow and sometimes she gulps down herself!*

*And if in the morning I'm sleepy and feel in the need of a perk,
I can have forty winks in my pushchair while Mummy gets on with her work.
But nothing's as nice as the night time. And nothing can equal the pleasure
of finding it's four in the morning and being Mum's wide-awake little treasure.*

A Mother's Wish

*I hope my child looks back on today
And sees a parent who had time to play.
There will be years for cleaning and cooking
But children grow up when you're not looking.
So settle down, cobwebs: dust, go to sleep
I'm cuddling my baby, and babies don't keep.*

The Example of Parenthood

*There are little eyes upon you and they're watching night and day:
There are little ears that quickly take in everything you say;
There are little hands all eager to do everything you do,
And a little boy (girl) who's dreaming of the day (s) he'll be like you.*

*You're the little fellow's (lady's) idol, you're the wisest of the wise;
In his (her) little mind about you no suspicions ever rise.
There's a wide-eyed little fellow (lady) who believes you're always right.
And his (her) ears are always open and (s) he watches day and night.*

*You are setting an example everyday in all you do,
For the little boy (girl) who's waiting to grow up to be like you.*

What are we Raising

(by Douglas Malloch)

*You know how it is what with children around
You can't have a lawn as I guess you have found
They're jumping or digging or driving a steak
A tent out of carpet they're trying to make.
They keep out the new grass, they ruin the old
No matter how much you may punish or scold.
Just look..... And here half of the summer is gone;
I've just about given up hope of a lawn.*

*They may not remember that romping is wrong.
And yet they seem happy and healthy and strong.
The place may not look quite as well as it might
But the cheeks full of roses are blooming all right.
The tent is a rather unsightly affair,
But the girls and the boys don't apparently care.
The lawn looks uneven to people who pass;
But what are we raising here?
Children or grass?*

Meditation on the Upbringing of Children

(by Dorothy Lowe Nolte)

*If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn;
If children live with hostility, they learn how to fight;
If children live with ridicule, they learn to be shy;
If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.*

*If children live with tolerance, they learn to be patient;
If children live with encouragement, they learn to have confidence;
If children live praise, they learn to appreciate;
If children live with fairness, they learn justice.*

*If children live with security, they learn to have faith;
If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves;
If children live with love around them, they learn to give love to the world.*

Celtic Blessing

*May the strength of the wind and the light of the sun,
The softness of the rain and the mystery of the moon reach you and fill you.
May beauty delight you and happiness uplift you,
May wonder fulfil you and love surround you.
May your step be steady and your arm be strong,
May your heart be peaceful and your word be true.
May you seek to learn, may you learn to live,
May you live to love, and may you love – always.*

An extract from Hamlet, Act 1 Scene iii

(William Shakespeare)

*Give every man thy ear, but few thy voice:
Take each man's censure, but reserve thy judgment.
Costly thy habit as thy purse can buy,
But not expressed in fancy: rich, not gaudy;
For the apparel oft proclaims the man.
Neither a borrower not a lender be;
For loan oft loses both itself and friend,
And borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry.
This above all – to thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.*

IF
(by Rudyard Kipling)

If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you;

*If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;*

If you can wait and not be tired by waiting, Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,

Or, being hated, don't give way to hating.

And yet don't look too good, not talk too wise;

If you can dream – and not make dreams your master;

If you can think – and not make thoughts your aim;

If you can meet with triumph and disaster and treat those two impostors just the same;

If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken

Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,

Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken;

And stoop and build'em up with worn-out tools;

If you can make one heap of all your winnings And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,

And lose, and start again at your beginnings And never breathe a word about your loss;

If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew To serve your turn long after they are gone, And so hold on when there is nothing in you Except the Will which says to the, "Hold on",

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue, Or walk with kings – nor lose the common touch;

If neither foes nor loving nor loving friends can hurt you; If all men count with you, but none too much;

If you can fill the unforgiving minute

With sixty seconds' worth of distance run –

Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,

And – which is more – you'll be a man, my son.

“BE TRUE. ...”

*Be true for those who trust you,
Be pure for those who care,
Be strong for there is much to suffer
Be brave for there is much to dare.
Be friend to all – the foe and friendless
Be giving and forget the gift,
Be humble, for you know your weakness,
And then look up, and laugh, and love, and live.*

“When Children Come into our Lives”

When children come into our lives they bring a world of joys, Laughter and discoveries, kisses, hugs and toys.

Each day bring new surprises, special wonder to explore. When children come into our lives our world is new once more.

Baby's Naming Day

*(Child's name) – bright as a flower
Lovely child, we welcome you
Into our world, into our lives
On this your special naming day.*

*(Child's name) – happy little spirit.
Smiling child, we wish you joy
And health and strength and love and peace
On this your special naming day.*

*(Child's name) – happy little boy/girl
Perfect child, we send you our blessings
For a long and happy life, energy and freedom,
On this your special naming day.*

*(Child's name) – our love goes out to you
Precious child with eyes so wide,
Waving arms and dancing feet,
And busy hands which hold so tight
On this your special naming day.*

On Being a Grandparent

It's very special to be (name) grandparent.

It's not an everyday event –

We have to make special arrangements to see each other –

And if I weary of childish behaviour, then I know that we shall eventually part again, so I can afford to be tolerant.

It's like having all the joys of parenthood without the pains.

I will always greet (name) with love in my heart.

I will pick you up when you fall and soothe away your tears.

I will endeavour to answer the “why” questions as you try to make sense of this world.

I will rejoice in your achievements – and probably tell them to anyone prepared to listen to my pride.

While I have health and strength, I will do my utmost to ensure that no harm befalls you, that you always know that you are loved and that you know that you can turn to me at any time for advice or consolation.

Poem for a Child

(Victoria Field)

*Little miracle child, born out of love into love,
I give you the world, at your feet, in your hands
Spinning in colours like the kaleidoscope of your eyes
A world of wonders, dreams and distant lands.*

*Little child, whose smile warms a room like sudden sunshine
Take this world and climb the mountains with your head held high
Walk tall on the peaks in the dazzle of crisp new snow
Look down at the valleys but aim for the sky.*

*Little child, take this world and bravely sail its stormy seas
Captain a ship that's strong, with a map and compass of your own,
Choose a crew with care to fight the monsters of the deep
And keep your anchor ready for a haven you can call home.*

*Little child, your father made you, your mother bore you,
This world is yours, a gift from those already older
And as you grow and your steps are stronger, bolder
And when our days fade, are darker, colder
May you too find a love that's bright and free
And hold your own child on your knee.*

My Parents' Garden

(Joan Cronin)

*My parents are planting a garden – a garden of the heart,
They're planting all the good things to give my life its start.
They'll turn me to the sunshine and encourage me to dream,
Fostering and nurturing the seeds of self-esteem.*

*And when the winds and rain come, they'll protect me well enough
But not too much, because they know I'll need to stand up strong and
tough.*

*Their constant good example will teach me right from wrong,
Markers for my pathway to last a lifetime long.
I am my parents' garden; I am their legacy,
And I hope they'll always feel the love reflected back from me.*

Being a Mother

Being a mother means that I will have the opportunity to experience loving someone more than life itself. I will learn what it is like to experience joy and pain through someone else. Being a mother will bring me pride and joy. (name) accomplishments will touch me like no one else's will.

Motherhood will bring me a few tears and heartache at times, but it will teach me hope and patience. It will show me the depth, strength and power of love. It won't always be easy, and I'm sure I'll say and do things that will hurt and confuse (name) but the good times become precious treasures to re-live again and again. No one can ever make a mother more happy and proud than her child can. No one's smile can ever warm her heart in the same way her child's does. No one's laughter can fill her heart with delight as quickly as her child's can. No one's hugs will feel as sweet and no one's dreams will mean as much to her as those of her child.

The bond between mother and daughter/son lasts a lifetime, and the bond between mother and daughter/son is a special one. It remains unchanged by time or distance. It is the purest love, unconditional and true. It is understanding of any situation, and forgiving of any mistake.

The bond between mother and daughter/son creates a support that is constant while everything else changes. It is friendship based on mutual love, respect, and a genuine liking of each other as a person. It is knowing that no matter where you go or who you are, there is someone who truly loves you, and is always there to support and console you. When a situation seems impossible you make it through together by holding on to each other.

The bond between mother and daughter/son is strong enough to withstand harsh words and hurt feelings, for it is smart enough to always see the love beyond the words. It is brave enough to always speak the truth, even when lies would be easier. It is always there..... anytime, anywhere.... whenever it is needed. It is a gift held in the heart and in the soul and it cannot be taken away or exchanged for another. To possess this love is a treasure that makes life more valuable.

(Name) is part of me, and no matter what the future holds, she/he is someone I will always accept, forgive, appreciate, adore and love unconditionally. Being (name's) mother means that I have been given one of life's greatest gifts – my daughter/son (name).

I am a Father

I am a father – I never thought that one day I would actually say those words. I did however dream of it, and when the time arrived for me, it was delivered with an almighty shock to the system. That shock to the system comprises an overwhelming sense of pride. That pride is smothered with the fear of not being able to do the best for my child. There is also a sense of wonder at what we have created together – that being our child (name).

This child has given me a love that has not yet, nor needed to be, nurtured or grown within myself, but a love unconditional from the moment (mother's name) told me that she was expecting a bundle of joy.

Being a father is teaching me things that I have never experienced before.

The feeling of overwhelming, unconditional love.

The feeling of overwhelming pride.

The feeling that I can help my child/ren's dreams come true.

The feeling of total trust, given to me by my child/ren.

The feeling of seeing his/her first smile, whether it was hives, or true happiness, filled my heart with love.

What is a son/daughter

*A son/daughter is someone that is a special part of your life,
Someone very dear to your heart,
On loan, a visitor to my wife/partner and myself,
S/He's a one in infinite numbers,
S/He's precious in every way.*

*A son/daughter is one of life's best gifts,
Someone you'll always love and cherish,
A son/daughter is someone who always makes you proud,
S/He's wonderful in every way
S/He's someone that's beautiful inside and out,
Someone that brings joy with every passing day.*

*No one could ask for a lovelier son/daughter
You're more precious than words can say.
You're a son/daughter so dear and so good,
You're remarkable in every way.*

Parents
Promises

In addition to selecting the promises you would like to make also decide on whether you would like to read them aloud, repeat them after the celebrant or simply reply "I promise". Listed below are some examples of promises but you are free to create your own .

You may include as many promises as you wish:

- *I/We promise to love and support (child's name) throughout his/her life.*
- *I/We promise to try and set a good example so that s/he learns right from wrong.*
- *I/We promise to try and bring (child's name) up to be tolerant of others and free from prejudice.*
- *I/We promise to teach (child's name) to work and to appreciate all that is good in life.*
- *I/We promise to keep (child's name) and clothe him/her, shelter and protect him/her for as long as s/he needs me.*
- *I/We promise to respect (child's name) as an individual and help him/her to develop his/her own thoughts and opinions.*
- *I/We will endeavour to bring (child's name) up in a home filled with love, kindness, tolerance of others, respect for humanity and the environment.*
- *I/We promise to nurture a spirit of curiosity, courage and enthusiasm, so that (child's name) will not be afraid of life's challenges but can meet them with quiet confidence.*
- *I/We promise that while (child's name) is growing up, I/We will endeavour to consider his/her needs before I/We consider our own.*
- *I/We will accept that parenthood means we may be called upon to sacrifice our own ambitions, set aside my/our own dreams and deny myself/ourselves pleasures in order to dedicate myself/ourselves to the development of (child's name) and so that s/he may tread more surely his/her own path in life.*

- *I/We will help (child's name) to take his/her place as a useful and caring member of society and help him/her to appreciate what is good and worthwhile in life.*
- *I/We will always endeavour to offer (child's name) unconditional love.*

The following promises are examples of how one child's parents decided to make their promises to their child:

Mother's hopes and promises:

Bringing a new life into this world is one of the most important things I will ever do and it puts a big responsibility on my shoulders. For many years, Nathan will depend on me. Just now, I am merely the keeper of his temporary helplessness. In later life he may even become my keeper. The way I look after him, care for and love him as a child, will all play a part on how he grows up and how his life will be shaped in future years. As Nathan's mother, I promise to do all I can to secure his health, happiness and strength.

I will strive to provide him with a loving and caring home, allow him the freedom to develop his own personality, and endeavour to give him a strong sense of identity and self-esteem. Without wishing to pre-determine the course of Nathan's life, or impose upon him my values and expectations, I hope to teach him the value of kindness, tolerance and honesty. I seek to provide him with an environment in which he is encouraged to develop an open-minded, sensitive and enlightened attitude to life and all those around him.

I will try to provide Nathan an insight into the important things in life, in order to make his life as happy and fulfilling as possible. I will teach him to be fair, to be generous towards other people, to respect and learn from older people and to know himself well. I will teach him to understand his strong and weak points, to accept criticism and to learn from his mistakes. I will encourage him to have many interests to pursue, to have many goals to follow, and to work hard to reach these goals.

I will teach Nathan to have a strong set of beliefs, to listen to his intelligence, to laugh and enjoy life, and to express his feelings openly and honestly at all times. I will teach him to realise that love is the best emotion that anyone can have and to value the family unit as the basis of stability.

If I provide Nathan with an insight into most of these things, then I have succeeded as a mother in what I hoped to accomplish in raising him. If many of these things slip by while we are all so busy, I have the feeling that he will know them anyway. As Nathan's proud mother, I will always continue to love and support everything he is, and everything he does. I will always be there for him, my son Nathan.

May he learn to love truth, even when it goes against him. May he cultivate kindness.

May he find courage and discover that he is stronger than the things he is afraid of. May he be brave in his own life and brave in standing up for what he believes is right.

May he have courage to remain loyal to his deep convictions and courage to admit when he has made a mistake.

The most important hope I have for Nathan in the future, is for him to come to love me not only as a mother, but as a friend.

Father's hopes and promises:

My first hope for Nathan comes from learning that everything I do or say will affect how he will develop. He is new to our world, a soul on loan to us. Nathan is a gift that does not belong to, but is a part of us. Yes, we created this precious being, but this does not give us the right of ownership. Nathan is his own self.

I hope to accept unconditionally Nathan's thoughts and wishes, whatever they may be.

I hope to help prepare him for what life has in store for him; to prepare Nathan without the selfish influences of my experiences and perceptions of life.

I hope to teach him to see the good in others, and not to judge them even if the truth is known. For the truth could hold not just the truth, but the opinions of the same truth, and from this may he learn that everyone has an opinion, or belief, and that they are entitled to that opinion or belief.

I hope he can take my experiences of what I have learned in my travel through life, and can learn from my mistakes.

I hope I can teach him to swallow his own pride when he is wrong and to say the words “ I am sorry” – with meaning. Most of all to know not to make a statement without knowing the full facts first.

I hope he can make that statement knowing the truth and have the strength and conviction to carry it through to a conclusion.

I hope he can also learn that there are times when tact rather than self-righteousness is the solution.

I hope to give him an open-minded view in all subjects, whether I agree or disagree. I am sure that Nathan will teach me a few things too as we travel together in life.

I hope he can nurture himself through my examples and others, to be kind, loving and understanding to everyone around him.

I hope he can raise his head above the prejudice that surrounds him.

I hope to unconditionally love him with all my heart and soul.

I hope to encourage him in all aspects of his life.

I hope to show him patience and understanding, and to listen to him without dictating what I think is correct.

With all my hopes, which are endless, I hope he comes to love me unconditionally too, as I have many faults and chinks in my armour.

I hope that he loves me for me.

*Promises
For
Supporting Adults
Or
Guardians*

Guardians or Supporting Adults will normally reply "I promise" to each promise that has been selected to be read aloud by the celebrant. Again, listed below are examples but if there are others you would like included please let us know.

You may include as many promises as you wish:

- Do you promise in times of difficulty (child's name) can turn to you for reassurance and help?*
- Will you care for (child's name), keep him/her in your thoughts, offer guidance and support, and endeavour to see that no harm comes to him/her.*
- Do you promise to keep careful watch over (child's name) until s/he grows to be an adult and to be always ready to advise, encourage and comfort him/her?*
- Will you encourage (child's name) to use both his/her head and his/her heart in decision making and to be true to him/herself?*
- Will you support this family and provide a shoulder to lean on if needed? Above all, will you help (parents' names) to achieve their hopes and aspirations for the happiness of (child's name)?*
- Do you promise to offer (child's name) guidance and support?*
- Do you promise to encourage (child's name) to make the most of his/her life?*
- Do you promise to help (child's name), through your encouragement, to become a confident and mature adult?*

The following promises are examples of how one child's guardians decided to make her promises to a child:

Celebrant:

As _____'s guardian, will you formally accept a commitment to this child? Will you as best you can take care of him, nurture him, protect him from harm, listen to him, encourage and support him?

Guardian:

I will.

Celebrant:

Will you offer friendship and sanctuary, so that he can turn to you in times of doubt or difficulty with confidence and trust?

Guardian:

I will.

Celebrant:

Will you promise to keep careful watch over Nathan until he grows to be an adult, to be always ready to advise him, to comfort him, offering him friendship without condition, guidance without judgment, sharing in his successes and providing a shoulder for him to lean on should he fail? Will you laugh with him in the good times and be there for him during the bad? Will you endeavour to help him to live his life true to the values Maureen and Phillip will have taught him, and to rest in the confidence that he will be loved and treasured always?

Guardian: I will.

Promises

For

Grandparent(s)

Grandparents would normally reply “I promise” to each promise that has been selected to be read aloud by the celebrant. Again you may like to add your own:

- *Will you give (child's name) the love, encouragement and support which you have given to your own child/ren and from which s/he/they continue to benefit?*
- *Do you promise that by your example you will give (child's name) a broad and balanced view of life and for as long as possible use your experience of life to enhance his/her development?*

Other Suggestions

The following suggestions are ones which other families have included in their child's naming ceremony and you may like to consider including one or more of these ideas within your choices:

INCLUDE OTHER CHILDREN

Remember the ceremony is for all the family, you can include all your children if you have not previously had a naming ceremony for them. If you decided to include more than one child remember to think about promises and supporting adults for each child.

PRESENTATION OF A FLOWER

(Spoken by Celebrant)

In this ceremony, (child's name) is given a flower. It symbolises the beauty and wonder of life and the meaning of your dedication. Whether a flower comes into full bloom or not, whether it grows tall and strong, whether its purpose is fulfilled, depends upon the nurture it receives. No flower grows alone, apart from the sunshine and the rain, apart from the soil from which it grows. No child grows up alone and you are here for (child's name) in all the seasons and the times of his/her days.

LIGHTING A CANDLE

(Spoken by Celebrant)

In honour of (child's name) we will now light a candle. The light stands for this new life and the hopes we have for the future. The warmth of the flame represents the warmth of our love and friendship.

(Candle is lit)

PRESENTATION OF A GIFT TO THE CHILD

At an appropriate part of the ceremony the family may like to present the child with a small gift to commemorate the special occasion. The list is of course endless but some examples include paintings, silver gifts – such as teddies and banks, bracelets etc. Gifts are normally restricted to the principal adults in the ceremony while others wishing to give the child a gift do so after the ceremony.

MENTIONING ABSENT FAMILY/FRIENDS

Many families have chosen to mention those people who could not attend the ceremony for one reason or another, for example if they live in another country or are too ill to travel.

RECORDING THE EVENT

At the end of the ceremony everyone participating in the ceremony will be invited to sign the record of the ceremony which will be presented to the parents as a lovely memento of the occasion. However, as in all family occasions it is a nice idea to have either a video recording of the event and/or photographs. Please bear in mind however that only one video camera can be operated during the ceremony and there will be ample opportunity at the end of the ceremony for everyone to take their photographs.

MUSIC

Playing music or having live music is one way in creating the right atmosphere within your chosen venue. The choice again is endless but please bear in mind that nothing of a religious nature can be played.

Baby Naming Fees

Registration office - Monday to Friday

Naming ceremony pack - £38.00
Conduct of ceremony - £55.00
Marriage suite accommodation fee - £59.00
Total - **£152.00**

Registration office - Saturday

Naming ceremony pack - £38.00
Conduct of ceremony - £55.00
Marriage suite accommodation fee - £59.00
Saturday supplement - £94.00
Total - **£246.00**

Paisley Town Hall - Monday to Friday

Naming ceremony pack - £38.00
Conduct of ceremony - £55.00
Paisley town hall accommodation fee - £88.00
Total - **£181.00**

You can find out more information on the fees payable for booking the town hall for your naming ceremony by accessing the Paisley town hall [venue hire costs](#) webpage.

Paisley town hall - Saturday

Naming ceremony pack - £38.00
Conduct of ceremony - £55.00
Paisley town hall accommodation fee/Saturday supplement - £183.00
Total - **£276.00**

Venues agreed with the Registrar - Monday to Friday (office hours)

Naming ceremony pack - £38.00

Conduct of ceremony - £ 55.00

Administration fee - £134.00

Total - **£227.00**

Venue agreed with the Registrar - Saturday

Naming ceremony pack - £38.00

Conduct of ceremony - £55.00

Administration fee/Saturday supplement - £224.00

Total - **£317.00**

Other venues as agreed by you and your registrar –
Sundays /Public Holidays

Naming ceremony pack - £38.00

Conduct of Ceremony - £55.00

Sunday/Public Holiday Supplement - £295.00

Total **£388.00**

What Next?

Now that you have an opportunity to think about all your options for your child's naming ceremony the next thing to do is firstly confirm availability of staff for your choice of date and venue, if you have not already done so. A while before the ceremony you will have the opportunity to meet the Celebrant who will be conducting the ceremony. This will allow you to discuss with the Celebrant all aspects of the ceremony.

Our staff are always happy to be of assistance, but remember it is your day and your child's ceremony so it is important that you are involved in every aspect of this special day.

Our contact details are as follows:

Phone: 0141 618 7114

e-mail louise.cullen@renfrewshire.gov.uk

By post: Louise Cullen, District Registrar, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley PA1 1TR