# SUGGESTED NAMING DAY READINGS

Reading 1

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn;

If children live with hostility, they learn 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 with 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.

(Dorothy Low Nolte)

Reading 2

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 days 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 he watches day and night.

You are setting an example every day in all you do,

For the little boy/girl who’s waiting to grow up to be like you.

Reading 3

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

You are setting an example every day in all you do,

For the little boy/girl who’s waiting to grow up to be like you.

Reading 4

At seven o’clock every evening my Mum tucks me 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 can give her attention to me.

And when I start yelling and shouting, Mum knows that 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 ‘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 treasure.

Reading 5

I have seen a mother at a cot – so I know what love is;

I have looked into the eyes of a child – so I know what faith is;

I have seen a rainbow – so I know what beauty is;

I have felt the pounding of the sea – so I know what power is;

I have planted a tree – so I know what hope is;

I have heard the wild bird sing – so I know what freedom is;

I have seen the chrysalis burst into life – so I know what mystery is;

I have lost a friend – so I know what sorrow is;

I have seen a star-decked sky – so I know what infinity is;

I have seen and felt all these things – so I know what life is.

Reading 6

Now this is the day

Our child

Into the daylight

You will go standing

Preparing for your day.

Our child, it is your day,

This day.

May your road be fulfilled.

In your thoughts may we live

May we be the ones whom your thoughts will embrace,

May you help us all to finish our roads.

(From writings of the Zuni Indians)

Reading 7

Being Small

Sometimes I just hate being small

When everyone else is tall

I think the world is most unfair

With me down here and them up there.

It’s awful when a juicy peach

Is in a bowl out of reach

Or parents have safely put away

The toys with which I want to play.

It’s terrible to have to stretch

For everything you want to fetch

While bigger people help themselves

To things from off the highest shelves.

Perhaps it might be less unfair

If they were kind of stuck up there

And had to wait till I came round

To give them things from off the ground;

But no, they can easily bend,

To fetch and carry, make and mend,

While if I want to reach that cup,

I have no way of bending up!

(John Macguire)

Reading 8

A Celtic Well-Wishing

The peace of the running water to you,

The peace of the flowing air to you,

The peace of the quiet earth to you,

The peace of the shining stars to you,

And the love and care of us all to you.

Reading 9

Through Baby’s Eyes

I didn’t expect a brass band, with welcome mat unfurled

To be on hand when I arrived, in this confusing world.

Nor did I expect a Doctor, to hold me by the feet,

Then quickly turn me upside down, and spank me on the seat.

At first I wasn’t quite prepared for this enormous place,

Nor for the funny characters, that I would have to face.

But I soon learned to get my way, by looking sweet and shy

And when I wanted to be held, to make a fuss and cry

I’ve found it really doesn’t take much difficult or guile

To wrap them around my finger,

All I need to do – is smile.

Reading 10

What we are -

No one is born a new being;

He bears the psyche the imprint of past generations.

He is a combination of ancestral units,

from which a new being must be fused,

yet he bears within him an essential gene,

a potential of a unique individual value.

The discovery of this unique essence and its development

is the quest of consciousness.

(Frances G. Wicks*)*

Reading 11

Be true to those who trust you

Be pure to 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

Reading 12

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.

Reading 13

When children come into our lives they bring a world of joys

Laughter and discoveries, kisses hugs and toys

Each day brings new surprises, special wonders to explore

When children come into our lives our world is new once more.

Reading 14

Welcome to the world

Pick me out an old time song

Sing it right or sing it wrong

Play a tune that’s nine months long

Welcome to the world.

Take my fiddle and my bow

Play you any tune I know

Keep you dancing while you grow

Welcome to the world.

You’ve got nappies in the pail

Mum’s as skinny as a rail

Got the whole world by the tail

Welcome to the world.

Listen to that baby bawl

You know she thinks she ‘s ten feet tall

And you’d think she’d done it all

Welcome to the world

In my mind I see you clear

Changing with each day and year

My, we’re glad you’re finally here

Welcome to the world.

May you grow up proud and strong

May your life be rich and long

May your nights be filled with song

Welcome to the world.

*(adapted from a song – Si Kahn)*

Reading 15

I loved you from the very start, You stole my breath, embraced my heart. Our life together has just begun, You're part of me my little one.

As mother with child, each day I grew, My mind was filled with thoughts of you. I'd daydream of the things we'd share, Like late-night bottles and teddy bears. Like first steps and skinned knees, Like bedtime stories and ABC's. I thought of things you'd want to know, Like how birds fly and flowers grow. I thought of lessons I'd need to share, Like standing tall and playing fair. When I first saw your precious face, I hoped your life be touched with grace. Each night I lay you down to sleep, I gently kiss your head and cheek. I count your little fingers and toes; I memorise your eyes and nose. I linger at your nursery door, Awed each day I love you more. Through misty eyes, I dim the light, I whisper, "I love you" every night. I loved you from the very start, You stole my breath, embraced my heart. As mother and child our journeys begin, My heart's yours forever my little friend.

Reading 16

May all your wishes come true

May you always do for others, and let others do for you

May you build a ladder to the stars and climb every rung

And may you stay forever young

May you grow to be righteous

May you up to be true

May you always know the truth, and see the light that’s surrounding you

May you always be courageous, stand upright and be strong

And may you stay forever young

May your hands always be busy, and your feet always be swift

May you have a strong foundation when the winds of change shift

May your heart always be joyful, and may your song always be sung

And may you stay forever young.

Reading 17

I wish that I could show you

all the things that I have seen. I wish that I could take you everywhere that I have been. I wish that I could indicate the places where I fell, And keep you, thus, from tripping on those “rougher” spots as well. I wish that I could do all this and save you from the strife. But I know that I’d be sparing you the lessons of your life. And you must learn those lessons as hard as that may be, Just know that you will always have a helping hand from me.

Reading 18

The Chosen Heart (perfect, for an adopted child)

Longing for a child to love,

I'd wish upon the stars above.

In my heart I always knew,

A part of me was meant for you.

I think how happy we will be,

Once I adopt you, & you adopt me.

I dream of all the joy you'll bring,

Imagining even the littlest things.

The way it will feel to hold you tight

& tuck you in every night.

The drawings on the refrigerator door

& childhood toys across the floor,

The favourite stories read again & again

& hours of fun with make believe friends.

The day you took my outstretched hand

A journey ended but our love began.

Still mesmerized by your sweet face

Still warmed inside by our first embrace.

I promised to give you a happy home

& a loving family all your own.

A house you've now made complete

with laughter, smiles & tiny feet.

A parent is one who guides the way

Know I will be there every day

Rest easy as each night you sleep

A lifetime of love is yours to keep

Longing for a child to love

I'd wish upon the stars above.

In my heart, I always knew

A part of me belonged to you.

By Teri Harrison

Reading 19

Past, Present, Future

Tell me, tell me, smiling child,

What the past is like to thee?

“An autumn evening soft and mild

with a wind that sighs mournfully.”

Tell me, what is the present hour?

“A green and flowery spray

where a young bird sits gathering its power

to mount and fly away.”

And what is the future, happy one?

“A sea beneath a cloudless sun;

A mighty, glorious dazzling sea

Stretching to infinity.”

Reading 20

The little things that happen

The little things that happen

Are tucked into your mind

And come again to greet you

(Or most of them you’ll find)

Through many little doorways,

Of which you keep the keys.

They crowd into your thinking -

We call them Memories.

But some of them are rovers

And wander off and get

So lost, the keys grow rusty,

And that means - you forget.

But some stay ever near you;

You’ll find they never rove -

The keys are always shining -

Those are the things you love.

*(Marjorie Wilson)*

Reading 21

Before You Came

What did we do, in the days before you came? Vodka, and dancing, and staying out late, Breakfast at tea-time, Reading the papers, a long lie-in, And space in the bed. Now it's daisy chains, and super-heroes, Butterfly wings, and light-sabres, Eating pink cake, Naming stars, And catching snowflakes in our mouths, No room in the bed, And a half-sleep on its edge, While you snore, stretched out, a star-fish. Time escaping, before you came, And cast your spell, And filled the house with possibility; All the things you want to do, And all the things you're going to be, So - let's make a den, Take our biscuits in, Carve lanterns at Hallowe'en, Watch grown-ups do star jumps on a trampoline, And wonder what we ever did, In the days before you came

(Beverky Butcher)

Reading 22

A Tribute to Daughters

Every home should have a daughter

For there is nothing like a girl

To keep the world around her

In one continuous whirl

From the moment she arrives on earth,

And on through womanhood,

A daughter is a female

Who is seldom understood

One minute she is laughing

The next she starts to cry,

Man just can not understand her

And there is no use to try

She is soft and sweet and cuddly

But she is also wise and smart,

She is a wondrous combination

Of a mind and brains and heart

And even in her baby days

She is just a born coquette,

And anything she really wants

She manages to get

For even at a tender age

She uses all her whiles,

And she can melt the hardest heart

With the sunshine of her smiles

Reading 23

Daddy’s Poem

You are a prince/princess in my heart,

and I care for you so much.

I love the fondness in you eyes and your tender little touch.

I looked at you when you were born, and knew then straight away,

that I would be forever here to watch you grow and play.

You bring to me a heart of joy, and memories so great,

and a powerful sense of fatherhood that no one can debate

I watch you sleep and dream of things that I can only wonder.

That innocent look upon your face just makes my heart grow fonder.

I see you run and jump and shout and calling out my name.

No love that I have ever known could ever feel the same.

No suffering or tragedy nor deeply seated pain

could ever over shadow the bond that we retain.

And so my little prince/princess before you go to sleep,

Remember I am your daddy and I am yours to keep

Reading 24

What is a boy

A boy is an explorer from his early days,

Who finds fun and adventure in the most surprising ways.

He’s a builder of wooden blocks,

A Climber of trees,

A teller of jokes and stories,

With a grin that sure to please

He’s a friend of little creatures,

Like puppies, frogs and bugs,

He’s a player of almost any game,

A winner of hearts and hugs.

He’s a dreamer of great dreams,

The futures hope and joy.

He’ll bring you worlds of happiness,

That wonderful little boy

Reading 25

THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL

We give you the greatest gift of all,

a headstart that will last throughout your life

We shall do our best to teach you,

but it will be up to you to learn

We shall try to guide you in the right directions,

but it will be up to you to make the right decisions

We shall also encourage you to seek your own independence

but it will be up to you to be responsible

We shall tell you about 'drink and drugs', but it will be up to you to say 'no'

We shall teach you about respect, but you will choose whether to appreciate it's value

We shall encourage you to try, but you should want to succeed for yourself

We shall teach you kindness, but it will be up to you to be good-natured

We shall teach you to share, but it will be up to you to be unselfish

We shall model values for you. but you have to develop your own morals

We give you this knowledge as a gift with all our love.

Reading 26

He’s / She’s your brand new little son / daughter,

So enchanted sweet and smart. With a coo, he’ll / she’ll have you smiling.

With a laugh, he’ll / she’ll own your heart. It's the time for hugs and kisses.

Reassurance when he / she cries.

It’s the time for making moments Full of love and Lullabies.

For these golden days of childhood

come and go so very fast –Hold him / her tight and love him / her dearly.

Make these precious moments last.

PARENTS PROMISES/ASPIRATIONS FOR THEIR CHILD/REN

(Please list your choices on Baby Naming Details Sheet)

1. to take joint responsibility for the welfare of your child;

2. continuing unconditional love and support for your child;

3. promise to support and encourage your child and respect him/her as an individual and help him/her grow to independence;

4. to help your child develop his/her own opinions, beliefs and values;

5. to offer your child a good example so that she/he learn right from wrong, truth from dis-honesty;

6. to help your child develop physically and intellectually, by encouragement rather than pressure;

7. to influence your child’s behaviour by good example, rather than by authoritative orders;

8. to bring your child up in a home filled with love and kindness and to teach him/her toler-ance and respect for others;

9. to use all your wisdom, patience and love to help your child to fulfil herself/himself and help others throughout his/her life;

10. to keep (child) and clothe him/her, shelter and protect him/her, love and support her for as long as he/she needs us as best we can;

11. to provide (child) with an environment in which he/she is encouraged to develop an open-minded, sensitive and enlightened attitude to life and all those around him/her;

12. to love and cherish (child) uniqueness and do all in your power to help him/her respect his/her mind and body;

13. to help your child learn self discipline by your example and to understand the need for co-operation by your acceptance of each other’s differences ;

14. to encourage self-reliance and to allow (child) freedom to explore his/her interests and potential in this world

15. Parents own choice:

SUPPORTING ADULTS PROMISES

(please list your choices on Baby Naming Details Sheet)

1. That in time of difficulty, (parents) and (child) can turn to you for reassurance and help;

2. To keep careful watch over (child) until she/he grows to be an adult and be always ready to advise, encourage and comfort him/her;

3. Accept a special commitment to (child), to offer friendship and sanctuary, so that he/she can turn to you in times of doubt or difficulty, with confidence and trust;

4. Unconditional friendship and guidance without judgement and to support and share in (child) successes and any failures in his/her life;

5. Accept to share the responsibility to provide the respect, honesty and warmth which will enhance (child’s) personality;

6. Endeavour to assist (child) to live his/her life true to the values (parents) have taught him/her, and to rest in the confidence and awareness that he/she will be loved and treasured al-ways;

7. To add chaos and fun to your life and to celebrate all your successes with you. We prom-ise to always try to make you laugh and smile, and to have lots of fun with you

7. Supporting Adults own choice: