

**PARENT(S) PRAYER**  
**(AN ALTERNATIVE TO A D'VAR TORAH)**

*(This is one option for a parent's prayer).*

What I wish for my (child/son/daughter),  
I wish for all our children.

I wish for you to be a  
person of character  
strong but not tough,  
gentle but not weak.

I wish for you to be  
righteous but not self-righteous  
honest but not unforgiving.

Wherever you journey, may your steps be firm,  
and may you walk in just paths  
and not be afraid.

Whenever you speak, may your words  
be words of wisdom and friendship.

May your hands build  
and your heart preserve what is good  
and beautiful in our world.

May the voices of the generations of our people  
move through you  
and may the God of our ancestors  
be your God as well.

May you know that there is a people,  
a rich heritage, to which you belong  
and from that sacred place  
you are connected to all who dwell on the earth.

May the stories of our people  
be upon your heart  
and the grace of the Torah rhythm  
dance in your soul.

Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso

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Adonai, O God of all humanity:

We lift our voices in gratitude that the Torah has come into the world through the Jewish people.

We lift our voices in gratitude for the ideals it teaches: justice; compassion; devotion; the partnership of mind, heart, and deed.

We lift our voices in gratitude that \_\_\_\_\_, today, takes his/her place among the people of Israel. We pray that he/she will do so with pride and joy.

And so we pray, \_\_\_\_\_, our son/daughter, may your quiet, inner strength help you continue to make good choices, even when they may not be popular with others--where you do what you think is right/just. Trust yourself.

May your own kindness and affection lead you to a life filled with people that love and appreciate you for who you are.

May your genuine inclination to help those less fortunate and your empathy and sensitivity make this world a kinder and gentler place.

May your old-soul wisdom, intelligence, and motivation lead you to work that you are passionate about and that gives your life meaning and purpose.

May you one day fully appreciate the extraordinary gifts/talents that you have been given—drawing, your artistic creativity, your delight in making others laugh.

May you continue your study of Torah and Judaism. May you always remember this extraordinary day and remember the generations that came before you and made it possible for you to stand here today as a Jew.

We are so proud of you \_\_\_\_\_.

Shabbat Shalom.