

## PARENT'S PLEDGE

I promise to . . .

Listen to my child/ren and communicate with my child/ren.

Teach my child/ren right from wrong.

Be a good role model for my child/ren.

Spend time with and pay attention to my child/ren.

Educate my child/ren in mind, body, and soul.

Work to provide a stable family life for my child/ren.

Vote for my child/ren to ensure them fair opportunity.

Speak out for my and other people's child/ren needs.

## TO THE CHILD

This is your special day, although you will not remember it or even know what it means. Yet, we want you to know that we are all here for you, not just for today, but every day that we possibly can for the rest of your life.

Parents, relatives and friends gathered here today, have so many wishes for you. Too many to list. Noble wishes for honesty, kindness and wisdom. Material wishes for wealth, health and good looks. Well some wishes come true and some don't. However much we want to, we can't protect you from all life's hurts. One day you'll understand why. So, more than all our wishes and hopes, there's one thing we can promise you: that we will always be here to support and help you, in good times and in bad.

To show a child what has once delighted you, to find the child's delight added to your own, so that there is now a double delight seen in the glow of trust and affection, this is happiness.

What children are looking for is a hug, a lap, a kind word, a touch, someone, to read them a story, somebody to smile and share with.

## DEAR CHILD . . .

I wish you the gift of empathy - the ability to stand in another's shoes and know their needs.

I wish you kindness - given as a gift and not as an obligation.

I wish you perception - to see without bigotry or self-esteem.

I wish you courage in all the hard times you will meet - a heart and mind that

learns from failure - and finds hope even at the edges of despair.

I wish you praise for work well done, the satisfaction of achievement, the joy of creation.

I wish that you become a person that shines with kindness and intelligence and love of life.

I wish you an exploratory mind and respect for the beliefs of others.

I wish you the love that changes and grows with every year that passes.

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.

If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.

If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.

If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.

If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.

If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith.

If a child lives with approval, he learns to live himself.

If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world.

## A MOTHER'S WISH

I hope my child looks back on today

And sees a parent who had time to play.

There will be time 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.

## BRAND NEW LITTLE SON / DAUGHTER

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.

## FOOTPRINTS

“Walk a little slower daddy” said a child so small.  
“I'm following in your footsteps and I don't want to fall

Sometimes your steps are very fast,  
Sometimes they're hard to see;  
So walk a little slower, Daddy,  
For you are leading me.

Someday when I'm all grown up,  
You're what I want to be;  
Then I will have a little child  
Who'll want to follow me.

And I would want to lead just right,  
And know that I was true;  
So, walk a little slower, Daddy,  
For I must follow you.”

When a baby enter this world, into your life  
A baby can make you forget your worries and strife.  
It really doesn't matter whether it's a boy or girl  
A baby will melt your heart and bring you joy!

So shower a baby with love, every single day.  
Show a baby you truly care - there's so many ways.  
For with a blink of an eye, time will fly out the door –  
and your precious baby, won't be a baby anymore!!

## 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 he'll (she'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 (she) watches day and night.

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

## 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.

## BABY'S NAMING DAY

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

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

(Name) – lively 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.

(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.

## POEM FOR A CHILD

Little miracle, 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 monster of the deep  
And keep your anchor ready for a haven you can call home.

Little child, round-bottomed, soft-skinned and chubby-limbed  
With lips that melt petal-soft in the caress of your mother's breast  
And tiny hands that touch everything with wonder,  
Make peace your mission and treat this world with gentleness.

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.

Wish list by Colin McCarty

Of all the things we wish for you, we would give anything if these wishes could always come true.....

We want you to be happy.

We want you to fill your heart with feelings of wonder and to be full of courage and hope.

We want you to have the type of friendship that is a treasure – and the kind of love that is beautiful forever.

We wish you contentment: the sweet, quiet, inner kind that comes around and never goes away.

We want you to have hopes and have them all come true.

We want you to make the most of this moment in time.

We want you to have a real understanding of how unique and rare you really are.

We want to remind you that the sun may disappear for a while, but it never forgets to shine.

We want you to have faith.

May you have feelings that are shared from heart to heart, simple pleasures amidst this complex world, and wonderful goals that are within your grasp.

May the words you listen to say the things you need to hear. And may a cheerful face lovingly look back at you when you happen to glance in your mirror.

We wish you the insight to see your inner and outer beauty.

We wish you sweet dreams.

We want you to be able to make your good times better and your hard times easier to handle.

We want you to have millions of moments when you find satisfaction in the things you do so wonderfully.

And we wish we could find a way to tell you, in untold ways, how important you are to us.

Of all the things we'll be wishing for, whatever you are and whatever we may do, there will never be a day in our life when we won't be wishing for the best ..... for you.

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 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.

## Being Small

Sometimes I just hate being small, when everybody 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 far 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!