

WELCOMING CEREMONY

# Suggested readings



Hampshire  
County Council

[hants.gov.uk](http://hants.gov.uk)

## 'The Joy of Raising a Baby' By Karl and Joanna Fuchs

We're glad you joined our family,  
Yet some things make us wonder;  
How can a little package like you  
Have a voice that's loud as thunder?

You are so small and oh so cute,  
But you are never very shy,  
For whenever you want something brought to you,  
You just open your mouth and cry.

First you moved on hands and knees,  
Then you were up on your feet.  
We're chasing you all around the house;  
We're tired; we need a retreat!

Your food is smeared over the table;  
Your food is on the floor;  
Seems the only place food didn't go,  
Is in the baby we adore.

Diapers here and diapers there,  
Stinky... smelly... Whew!  
Diapers would have done us in,  
If we didn't love you as we do.

We're glad you joined our family,  
You're a unique and wonderful treasure.  
So, despite the work of raising you,  
Being your parents is a total pleasure



## On children from The Prophet'

By Kahlil Gibran

Your children are not your children.  
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.  
They come through you but not from you,  
And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.  
You may give them your love but not your thoughts,  
For they have their own thoughts.  
You may house their bodies but not their souls,  
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,  
which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.  
You may strive to be like them,  
but seek not to make them like you.  
For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.  
You are the bows from which your children  
as living arrows are sent forth.  
The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite,  
and He bends you with His might  
that His arrows may go swift and far.  
Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness;  
For even as He loves the arrow that flies,  
so He loves also the bow that is stable.

## 'Love you more'

By James Carter

Do I love you  
to the moon and back?  
No I love you  
more than that  
I love you to the desert sands  
the mountains, stars

the planets and  
I love you to the deepest sea  
and deeper still  
through history  
Before beyond I love you then  
I love you now  
I'll love you when  
The sun's gone out  
the moon's gone home  
and all the stars are fully grown  
When I no longer say these words  
I'll give them to the wind, the birds  
so that they will still be heard  
I love you

**Before You Came**  
**By Beverly Butcher**

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.

## 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 the little boy (girl) who's waiting to grow up to be like you



## **'Wishes for A Child'**

**By Joanna Miller**

May you know the gift of friendship,  
Feel the sun upon your face,  
May you win displaying dignity,  
And accept defeat with grace,  
May you marvel with the wonders,  
Of nature and the earth,  
May you value education,  
And know your own true worth,  
May you live and love with honesty,  
And do the thing that's right,  
May you stand up for the homeless,  
And sleep in peace at night,  
May you thrive upon a challenge,  
And sing and dance and laugh,  
May you know the joy of parenthood,  
And follow your own path.

## **Wishes on Your Naming Day**

**By Unknown**

I wish you such a happy life  
That's jam-packed full of fun  
Adventures, friendships, laughter, love  
And picnics in the sun  
I wish you a courageous life  
With no dreams left untried  
So that, whichever path you take  
You'll always walk with pride  
I wish you an accomplished life  
That celebrates your wins

But let you know the equal joy  
Of simply joining in.  
But most of all, I wish for you  
The life that you will choose  
Your name is given, but who you'll be  
Is completely down to you.

**Wishing You Many Smiles**  
**By Unknown**

May life's adventures be exciting and sweet  
Filled with love from the friends that you'll meet  
You'll soon grow up for time does fly  
So cherish each moment as it goes by  
From crawling and walking To toddling and talking  
There's no knowing what you'll do next

There's a threshold to cross and a wide open door  
And a wonderful world for you to explore  
Sleep with the moonbeams and play in the sun  
Let your life be a long one and filled with fun  
May today and tomorrow and all days hereafter  
Be days that are happy and filled with your laughter.



## **Forever Young**

**By Bob Dylan**

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 on every rung  
And may you stay forever young

May you grow to be righteous  
May you grow up to be true  
May you always know the truth  
And see the light that is surrounding  
you

May you always be courageous  
Stand upright and strong  
And may you stay forever young

May your hands always be busy  
And may 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.

## **I Wish for You One Thing, and that is Love**

**By William Byrd**

I wish for you one thing, and that is love  
Love for life, and pure, unfettered joy  
At being here on this vivid earth.

May pleasure come from giving pleasure,  
And love that streams out of your burning heart  
Light the darkened world and make it bloom.

I wish you to be loved both well and long  
By all those whom you love; that these be many,  
Among whom, not least, might be yourself.

May you love the beautiful and good,

And always act with honesty and justice,  
Being what you would that others be.

But most of all, I wish for you a love  
Into which your love might plunge and drown,  
An ocean in which you might live and breathe.

**Us Two**  
**By AA Milne**

Wherever I am, there's always Pooh,  
There's always Pooh and Me.  
Whatever I do, he wants to do,  
"Where are you going today?" says Pooh:  
"Well, that's very odd 'cos I was too.  
Let's go together," says Pooh, says he.  
"Let's go together," says Pooh.

"What's twice eleven?" I said to Pooh.  
("Twice what?" said Pooh to Me.)  
"I think it ought to be twenty-two."  
"Just what I think myself," said Pooh.  
"It wasn't an easy sum to do,  
But that's what it is," said Pooh, said he.  
"That's what it is," said Pooh.

"Let's look for dragons," I said to Pooh.  
"Yes, let's," said Pooh to Me.  
We crossed the river and found a few-  
"Yes, those are dragons all right," said Pooh.  
"As soon as I saw their beaks I knew.  
That's what they are," said Pooh, said he.  
"That's what they are," said Pooh.

"Let's frighten the dragons," I said to Pooh.

"That's right," said Pooh to Me.

"I'm not afraid," I said to Pooh,  
And I held his paw and I shouted "Shoo!  
Silly old dragons!"- and off they flew.

"I wasn't afraid," said Pooh, said he,  
"I'm never afraid with you."

So wherever I am, there's always Pooh,  
There's always Pooh and Me.

"What would I do?" I said to Pooh,  
"If it wasn't for you," and Pooh said: "True,  
It isn't much fun for One, but Two,  
Can stick together, says Pooh, says he. "That's how it is," says  
Pooh.

**You Are My I Love You**  
**By Maryann K Cusimano**

I am your parent you are my child,  
I am your quiet place, you are my wild,  
I am your calm face, you are my giggle,  
I am your wait, you are my wiggle,  
I am your audience, you are my clown,  
I am your London Bridge, you are my falling down,  
I am your Carrot Sticks, you are my licorice,  
I am your dandelion, you are my first wish,  
I am your water wings, you are my deep,  
I am your open arms, you are my running leap,  
I am your way home, you are my new path,  
I am your dry towel, you are my wet bath,  
I am your dinner you are my chocolate cake,

I am your bedtime, you are my wide awake,  
I am your finish line, you are my race,  
I am your favourite book, you are my new lines,  
I am your nightlight, you are my sunshine,  
I am your lullaby, you are my peek-a-boo,  
I am your kiss goodnight, you are my I love you.

## 'Oh, the Places You'll Go'

By Dr. Seuss.

Congratulations!  
Today is your day.  
You're off to Great Places!  
You're off and away!  
You have brains in your head.  
You have feet in your shoes.  
You can steer yourself any direction you choose.  
You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are  
the guy who'll decide where to go.  
You'll look up and down streets. Look'em over with care.  
About some you will say, "I don't choose to go there."  
With your head full of brains and your shoes full of feet,  
you're too smart to go down a not-so-good street.  
And you may not find any you'll want to go down.  
In that case, of course, you'll head straight out of town.  
It's opener there in the wide open air.  
Out there things can happen and frequently do, to people as  
brainy and footsy as you.  
And when things start to happen, don't worry. Don't stew.  
Just go right along. You'll start happening too.  
Oh! The Places You'll Go!  
You'll be on your way up!  
You'll be seeing great sights!  
You'll join the high fliers who soar to high heights.

You won't lag behind, because you'll have the speed.  
You'll pass the whole gang and you'll soon take the lead.  
Wherever you fly, you'll be best of the best.  
Wherever you go, you will top all the rest.  
Except when you don't.

Because, sometimes, you won't.

I'm sorry to say so but, sadly, it's true that Bang-ups and Hang-ups can happen to you.

You can get all hung up in a prickly perch. And your gang will fly on. You'll be left in a Lurch.

You'll come down from the Lurch with an unpleasant bump. And the chances are, then, that you'll be in a Slump.

And when you're in a Slump, you're not in for much fun. Unslumping yourself is not easily done.

You will come to a place where the streets are not marked. Some windows are lighted. But mostly they're darked. A place you could sprain both your elbow and chin! Do you dare to stay out? Do you dare to go in?

How much can you lose? How much can you win?

And if you go in, should you turn left or right...or right-and-three-quarters? Or, maybe, not quite? Or go around back and sneak in from behind? Simple it's not, I'm afraid you will find, for a mind-maker-upper to make up his mind.

You can get so confused that you'll start into race down long wiggled roads at a break-necking pace and grind on for miles across weirdish wild space, headed, I fear, toward a most useless place.

The Waiting Place...for people just waiting.

Waiting for a train to go or a bus to come, or a plane to go or the mail to come, or the rain to go or the phone to ring, or the snow to snow or waiting around for a Yes or No or waiting for their hair to grow. Everyone is just waiting.

Waiting for the fish to bite or waiting for wind to fly a kite or

waiting around for Friday night or waiting, perhaps, for their Uncle Jake or a pot to boil, or a Better Break or a string of pearls, or a pair of pants or a wig with curls, or Another Chance.

Everyone is just waiting.

No! That's not for you!

Somehow you'll escape all that waiting and staying. You'll find the bright places where Boom Bands are playing. With banner flip-flapping, once more you'll ride high! Ready for anything under the sky. Ready because you're that kind of a guy!

Oh, the places you'll go!

There is fun to be done! There are points to be scored. There are games to be won. And the magical things you can do with that ball will make you the winning-est winner of all. Fame! You'll be famous as famous can be, with the whole wide world watching you win on TV.

Except when they don't. Because, sometimes, they won't. I'm afraid that sometimes you'll play lonely games too. Games you can't win 'cause you'll play against you.

All Alone!

Whether you like it or not, Alone will be something you'll be quite a lot

And when you're alone, there's a very good chance you'll meet things that scare you right out of your pants. There are some, down the road between hither and yon, that can scare you so much you won't want to go on.

But on you will go though the weather be foul. On you will go though your enemies prowl. On you will go though the Hakken-Kraks howl. Onward up many a frightening creek, though your arms may get sore and your sneakers may leak. On and on you will hike. And I know you'll hike far and face up to your problems whatever they are.

You'll get mixed up, of course, as you already know. You'll get mixed up with many strange birds as you go. So be sure when you step. Step with care and great tact and remember that Life's a

Great Balancing Act. Just never forget to be dexterous and deft.  
And never mix up your right foot with your left  
And will you succeed?  
Yes! You will, indeed!  
(98 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  percent guaranteed.)  
Kid, you'll move mountains!  
So...be your name Buxbaum or Bixby or Bray,  
or Mordecai Ale Van Allen O'Shea,  
you're off to Great Places!  
Today is your day!  
Your mountain is waiting.  
So...get on your way!

**Love You By Unknown**  
**(You can choose to replace 'I' with 'we' and 'My' with**  
**'Our').**

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 prayed your life be touched with grace.  
I thanked the angels from above,

And promised you unending love.  
Each night I lay you down to sleep,  
I gently kiss your head and cheek.  
I count your little fingers and toes;  
I memorize 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/father and child our journeys begin,  
My heart's yours forever my little friend.

**'Ode on the Whole Duty of Parents'**  
**By Frances Cornford**

The spirits of children are remote and wise,  
They must go free  
Like fishes in the sea  
Or starlings in the skies,  
Whilst you remain  
The shore where casually they come again.  
But when there falls the stalking shade of fear,  
You must be suddenly near,  
You, the unstable, must become a tree  
In whose unending heights of flowering green  
Hangs every fruit that grows, with silver bells;  
Where heart-distracting magic birds are seen  
And all the things a fairy-story tells;  
Though still you should possess  
Roots that go deep in ordinary earth,  
And strong consoling bark  
To love and to caress.

## Roots and Wings By Denis Waitley

If I had two wishes, I know what they would be  
I'd wish for roots to cling to, and wings to set me free;  
roots of inner values, like rings within a tree,  
and wings of independence to seek my destiny.

Roots to hold forever to keep me safe and strong,  
to let me know you love me, when I've done something wrong;  
to show me by example, and help me learn to choose,  
to take those actions every day, to win instead of lose.

Just be there when I need you, to tell me it's alright,  
to face my fear of falling when I test my wings in flight;

Don't make my life too easy, it's better if I try,  
And fail and get back up myself, so I can learn to fly.

If I had two wishes, and two were all I had,  
And they could just be granted, by my Mum and Dad;  
I wouldn't ask for money any store-bought things,  
the greatest gifts I'd ask for are simply roots and wings.

## A Celtic Blessing

Welcome to the world -----!  
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.

## When Children Come By Unknown

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.

## A Parent's Love (Adaption of Helen Steiner Rice - A Mother's Love)

A Parent's love is something, that no one can explain  
It is made of deep devotion, and is sacrifice and pain  
It is endless and unselfish, and enduring, come what may  
For nothing can destroy it, or take that love away  
It is patient and forgiving, when all others are forsaking  
And it never fails or falters, even though the heart is breaking  
It believes beyond believing, when the world around condemns  
And it glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems  
It is far beyond defining, it defies all explanation  
And it still remains a secret, like the mysteries of creation  
A many splendored miracle, man cannot understand  
And special wondrous evidence, of life's tender guiding hand.



## Through Baby's Eyes

By Unknown

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 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 doesn't take much difficulty or guile  
To wrap them round my finger - all I need to do is smile!

## Twins

By Unknown

There's two to wash, there's two to dry;  
There's two who argue, there's two who cry.  
One's in the mud, having a ball;  
The other holds a crayon...another marked wall.  
Some days seem endless, my patience grows thin.  
Why was I chosen to be a mother of twins?  
The answer comes clear - at the end of the day,  
As I tuck them in bed and myself I say...  
There's two to kiss, there's two to hug;  
And best of all, there's two to love.

## Be Happy.

By Unknown

I want you to be happy.  
I want you to fill your heart with feelings of wonder and to be full

of courage and hope.

I want you to be full of friendship that is a treasure - and the kind of love that is beautiful forever.

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

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

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

I want you to have a real understanding of how unique and rare you truly are.

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

I 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.

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

I wish you sweet dreams. I want you to have times when you feel like singing and dancing and laughing out loud.

I want you to be able to make your good times better and your hard times easier

to handle. I want you to have millions of moments when you find satisfaction in the

things you do so wonderfully. And I wish I could find a way to tell you - in untold ways - how important you are to me.

Of all the things I'll be wishing for, wherever you are and whatever I may do, there will

never be a day in my life when I won't be wishing the best...for you.