

Ella Smith

Welcome everyone and in particular a very special welcome to Ella Smith.

As the most recent addition to the family, you are unique in every way and a wonderful addition to life in general.

Jack and Jill would like to thank you all for joining them here today to celebrate in particular, the birth of their daughter Ella and to express the love and commitment they have to Ella, Ava and Jackson, the children so very important to both of them.

The joy and delight of having children in your life is a gift worth celebrating and a naming ceremony is a perfect opportunity to take time to value and celebrate all of our children.

Naming a child not only gives a sense of personal identity, even if they may not be fully aware of it at the time, but it also gives a sense of family and cultural identity, all of which are important for a child's sense of belonging.

This naming ceremony provides an opportunity for Jill and Jack to declare, before family and friends, their promise to be as good as parents as they can and for adult friends or relatives, chosen by Jack and Jill, to pledge their commitment and support to Ella.

While a child can be a demanding responsibility that often tests our patience and our understanding, it is also much more than that. A child brings joy, wonder and richness to our lives.

Time will bring toys on floors and balls on lawns, a happy, healthy child playing in the yard. There will be bruises to kiss, report cards to praise, and drawings to display on refrigerator doors. A child brings pleasure and wonder into the lives of those who bring it into this world. But it also means great responsibility; for what the child becomes is largely what you, as parents bring into her life.

Reading: Chloe

Children Learn What is lived:

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 confidence

If children live with fairness, they learn justice

If children live with security, they learn to have faith

If children live with acceptance and friendship

They learn to find love in the world.

Parent Affirmation

Names are in important part of everyone's life, a name helps give each and every one of us individuality. Jill and Jack what name have you chosen for your child?

Jack and Jill:

Ella Smith

Celebrant:

Ella, your name was chosen with great care, and it was chosen just for you. Ella means amongst other things 'princess' a lovely way to describe this gorgeous little girl with us all here today.

I now ask that Jill and Jack light the candle representing the light and love of Ella and then make their declaration to friends and family here today.

Celebrant:

Jack and Jill what would you like to say to Ella?

Jack and Jill:

Ella as you laugh, grow, look, listen and learn, see the world in consideration of and with respect for the rights of others. With love and caring and through example, we promise to explain the difference between right and wrong, to show you by example the concept of sharing and the meaning of love. We promise to support and love you always.

Celebrant:

As Parents always remember that unconditional love is the best gift any parent can give to their child.

Reading - Susan

Advice to parents

If I had my child to raise over again,
I'd build resilience first and the house later.
I'd finger paint more and point the finger less.
I would do less correcting and more connecting.
I would take my eyes off my watch and watch with my eyes.

I'd care to know less and know to care more.
I'd take more hikes and fly more kites.
I'd stop playing serious and seriously play.
I'd run through more fields and gaze at more stars.

I'd do more hugging and less tugging.
I'd see the oak in the acorn more often.
I would be firm less often and affirm much more.
I'd think less often about the love of power
And more about the power of love.

Dianne Loomans, Melbourne youth worker.

Godparent Affirmation

I would now like to invite (names) to symbolise their commitment to Ella with a message to their godchild.

(Names), Jill and Jack thank you for your love and support and they ask you accept the very special role of God parents to Ella. They ask that you welcome her when she comes to you for company and advice and that you listen and respect her confidences no matter how great or small, most importantly, they ask that you show her understanding and love.

(Names), are you willing to accept this special privilege?

(Names) respond:

I do

And now (names) have a message for Ella.

(Name)

Ella stay true to yourself always, follow your passion, follow your heart, but above all be true to your soul. I promise to guide and support you.

(Name)

Ella if your self-worth is based on the opinions of others, then it is not really self worth at all. Be yourself and don't conform to any group, be proud, be who you are, hold your head high and walk tall. I will promise to stand by you always.

(Name)

Always treat others with respect and love and you will find that you'll get that treatment back. Never make fun of or judge others. I promise not to judge you and to always listen to you with love.

Celebrant:

On behalf of everyone here I congratulate Jill and Jack as the parents of Ella, Liana and Jackson.

I would also like to congratulate (names) as the God parents of Ella. I am sure that your lives will be enriched with your new roles.

We will conclude the ceremony by signing Ella's naming certificate and I ask the God parents to join us. I hope you all enjoy the rest of the day and that Ella continues to bring light to all of your lives.

Signing of the certificate.