



RABBI
MICHAEL S. BEALS

CANTOR
ELISA ABRAMS COHN

RABBINICAL GUIDANCE FOR PARENTAL SPEECH WHEN PRESENTING TALLIT

1. Keep it short. Maximum 2 to 3 minutes (at most).
2. Approach 1: Revisit the qualities of the relatives for whom you named your child at his brit milah (circumcision for males) or her simchat bat (baby naming for girls). How has your child grown into those qualities after 13 years. Rationale: this is a way of praising your child within the context of a religious service. It also embodies the value of l'dor va dor – from generation to generation.
3. Approach 2: If the Tallit was bought by a loved one in Jerusalem or handmade, you can focus on the tallit and the circumstances in which it was chosen, or what it symbolizes (color, design, etc).



CONGREGATION
BETH SHALOM
WILMINGTON, DE

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GUIDANCE FOR THE RABBI'S CHARGE TO YOUR CHILD

1. What is one or more issues which you, as parents, are trying to work with your child on, where a friendly reinforcement from the rabbi would be helpful. I will then try to match that issue with something in the Torah reading and share it with your child. **Caveats: This has to be an issue which will NOT embarrass your child.** In fact, perhaps you can pre-approve the basic issue with your child in advance. If you are a two-parent household, make sure both parents are onboard with the issue you want the rabbi to address. Finally, the issue should be meaningful. The following are some of the more common issues received:
 - ★ Be a little easier on yourself
 - ★ Perfection is the enemy of the good
 - ★ Make time to appreciate the moment
 - ★ Be more patient with your sibling
 - ★ Make better use of time by not putting off work until the last minute
2. Please get the issue you want the rabbi to craft as a charge to the rabbi at least one week before the bar or bat mitzvah so the rabbi can plan out how to connect the issue to the Torah portion.