

A Parent's Blessing for Your Child

"May God protect you. May God open your eyes to much knowledge and to the wisdom of our tradition. This year, you have begun what we hope will be a lifelong journey of learning. Remember, that you are loved, and that the lessons of our people and of our community are meant to be part of your life forever."

[At this point parents have an opportunity to add any personal blessing that you want to offer their child]

"We stand here this morning, under this *tallit*, because this is where Jews make commitments, with each other, and in the presence of God. And, so, all of us are now going to cover our eyes as we do when we pray - to remember we are connected to one people, and to one God. And, together let' recite the words of the *Sh'ma* – [recite *Sh'ma*]:"

"*Sh'ma Yisrael Adonai Eloheinu,
Adonai Ehad*"

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד