Naming Ceremony Content & Structure

The naming ceremony can be a combination of some or all of the elements listed below:

* Introduction and welcome
* Acknowledging absent friends/ family members
* Reading / poem
* Handfasting – Promise Renewal?
* **Element**
* Stories / Songs / Music / Dancing
* Naming of the child or children
* Meaning of the names
* **Element** – Soul Plan?
* Welcoming the child
* Parents’ vows/ promises/ commitments
* Supporting adults’ / grandparents’ vows
* **Element**
* Readings and music
* Signing of the record of the ceremony
* Presentation of gifts to the child
* Presentation of Commemorative Certificate
* Closing words / Hope for the future

Ceremony Elements may include:

* Unity sand
* Soul Plan
* Name meaning
* Naming ribbon
* Wishing tree/jar

Significant family & friends

Grandparents and other close family members can all be included, acknowledged, and involved in your ceremony if you wish.

Other children and the child’s siblings can be given special mentions or roles.

You may also wish to have a group of older children / adults who are acknowledged during the ceremony as stepping into a special support role for the child to be named.

Being asked to be part of a circle of support to the child being named, whether the term godparent, life mentor, signiﬁcant person or some other title is used, is both an honour and a responsibility, so you must choose the people you ask with care and talk to them about their hopes and expectations both for their part in the ceremony and their role in your child’s life.

Parents or guardians and mentors must feel comfortable with what they feel they want to aspire and commit to. You may wish for them to take an active part in the ceremony by contributing a reading or piece of poetry or story, or perhaps to verbalise the commitment they're making to the child in their own words, or maybe take vows.

It's possible to involve and include them in the ceremony, thereby laying a fertile foundation for the relationship between them and the child to blossom over the years ahead.

You are advised to pick people your child looks likely to have regular contact with, who will oﬀer support to you and your child, and have a positive inﬂuence throughout your child’s life.