



# Naming Ceremony Ideas



**Babies**  **Children**  **Adoptees**

**Blended Families**  **Adult Re-Naming**

**Transgender / Non-Binary /  
Gender Fluid Re-Naming**

# Introduction

A naming ceremony is a wonderful family celebration, dedicated to the arrival of your child (or children) and can be held as an acknowledgment of your achievement and addition to your family unit.

It can involve grandparents, other siblings too, or celebrate a blended family (if a couple marries and they have children from separate partners), or indeed, welcome an adopted child into the fold.

Naming ceremonies can also be held in the devastating event that a baby or child has passed away. This is chance to openly acknowledge and celebrate their short life and officially welcome them into your family.

They are increasingly being used for transgender, non-binary or gender-fluid re-naming or adult re-naming ceremonies.

This acknowledges the journey of discovery and symbolises a new beginning.

With a celebrant, the content of your naming day can be as personal and intimate, or as flamboyant as you like!



This document contains lots of ideas to make your ceremony more special and memorable.

Each one can be adapted to your wishes and needs.



***“You only get one chance to make it authentic and bespoke. Working with me gives you that opportunity”***

# CEREMONY IDEAS

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# Typical Ceremony Content

The beauty of a naming ceremony is that you can design it however you like – there are no legal requirements and restrictions, so it can be fully tailored to your wants and needs.

However, this is what you might expect from a typical naming ceremony:

- ③ Introductions and welcomes
- ③ A reading or poem
- ③ Storytelling about the child, such as their arrival into the world, their personality and any quirks or interests
- ③ A message about the role and responsibilities of parenting
- ③ The parent's promises to the child
- ③ Another reading or poem
- ③ Importance of wider family and any specific people in attendance
- ③ Appointment of guideparents
- ③ Guideparents' promises
- ③ The significance and meaning behind the child's name
- ③ The naming itself
- ③ Concluding words

## Have A Theme



From a circus-theme to The Lion King, celebrating within a theme can help to create a party atmosphere and keep things interesting for any children (and adults) attending.

You could also consider holding it in a venue that is in-keeping with your theme, or decorate your venue accordingly. You could also incorporate dressing up and even have a dressing up box so everyone can take part! Think of the photo opportunities!



## Make A Grand Entrance

Depending on whom your naming ceremony is for – baby, toddler, children or adults – you can get really creative with how you make your entrance.



It could be flanked by family or friends, or on your own special transport (toddlers could transport themselves on a miniature classic car, scooter, space hopper!).

You could make your entrance to music and dance, or even be carried in!



The possibilities are endless!



# Unity Sand Ceremony

This is a really colourful ceremony that can involve lots of guests. The Unity Sand Ceremony involves various members of the family and friends adding their own colour of sand into a container, with symbolic words being spoken as they do so.

It can involve anyone, but as an example, grandparents could provide the base layer as the root of the family, followed by the parents, the child and then the guideparents or mentors symbolising the protection and guidance they vow to provide for the child.

It's a wonderful, visual ceremony and the colours of the sand and the way it rests in the glass phial will be totally unique to your family.



# Hand Fasting Ceremony

While hand-fasting ceremonies are these days more common in celebrant-led weddings, they also work really well with naming ceremonies to symbolise the unseen connection that the parents and guide parents have for the child.



A typical naming ceremony hand-fasting will centre around the child, who will have the naming ribbon wrapped around one of their hands. This will then pass through any number of family members and guide parents, being wrapped around one of their hands before arriving back at the child and being fastened to their other hand.

During this time, words may be spoken by the celebrant, which will often refer to the colour of the ribbon and what that colour symbolises: gold for wealth and prosperity, for example, or green for peace and health.

Hand-fastings are still a rarity in naming ceremonies, so having one at your event will ensure your child's naming ceremony is unique.



## Lighting A Candle

A flame can symbolise hope, warmth, and the brightening of lives as a result of the arrival of the child.

Lighting a candle in a naming ceremony can also be done as an act of remembrance for a deceased relative or friend.

Candles can be lit with an accompanying reading or music – or in contemplative silence.



## Create A Time Capsule Or Memory Box



This would be a lovely keepsake that can be appreciated for many years to come. You could ask all your guests to bring a small item to put inside the Time Capsule or Memory Box. Things that work well are handwritten notes, poems, memories, funny stories, newspaper clippings, toys, photos, letters about life at the current time, and much more. The Capsule or Box could remain sealed until a certain significant time in the future.

## Wish Tree

Invite your guests to write promises, words of advice, or good wishes on individual tags and then hang on a tree (real if outside or artificial if indoors) as a special collective moment in the ceremony.

After the ceremony, you can then gather the messages and keep them for your child as a memento of the day or add them to a Time Capsule or Memory Box.



# Bubbles

It might seem simple, but bubbles can create a sense of magic during a naming ceremony, either in the ceremony itself or as a way of keeping the children happy at the after party.



In the past many people have released balloons, but this is not very environmentally friendly. Blowing bubbles is a great alternative.

You could even involve guests as they make a promise, then blow some bubbles. The children can then chase and catch them.



# Have A Poem Written

One of the most beautiful and lasting memories you can have from a naming ceremony is commissioning someone to write a poem especially for your child.

Not only can this form a stunning and memorable part of the ceremony itself, but it can also be a keepsake that your child can look back on as they grow up and grow old.



# Plant A Tree



Depending upon the time of year, planting a tree in commemoration of this special occasion is a lovely idea and a great way to involve other children, close friends, or family members in the ceremony. Tree-planting also provides the opportunity to include words about the importance of nurturing and caring for the growth of the child.



## Planting Seeds Or Bulbs

If you don't have room to plant a tree, or you have chosen an indoor venue, you could instead give seeds or bulbs to guests to plant in pots and take home for the growing season ahead.



## Have A Commemorative Naming (Re-Naming) Certificate

Signing a naming certificate provides a short pause in the ceremony and a lovely photo opportunity during which the parents and supporting adults sign a certificate witnessed by all in attendance, marking the occasion and the adults' commitments to the child.

The certificate can be kept by the family as a memento of the event. I provide a special certificate for this occasion.

## Have A Guest Book

A guest book enables your guests to write a message for your child before, during, or after the ceremony, creating a keepsake for your child to revisit in years to come.



## A Video Of Good Wishes

How about making a video of guests' wishes for your child either in advance to be shown during the ceremony or made at the ceremony as a memento for your child to enjoy as they grow up?



## Handprints



A lovely way to visualise how much your child grows over the years is to have them make a hand print on their naming certificate, or a similar document, which they'll then be able to compare to their growing hand in the future.

You can also surround their hand with prints from siblings, parents or anyone significant in their life. Once the paint has dried, writing a small message on their print can also create a very special keepsake.



## Have A Toast!

One of the benefits of a baby naming as opposed to a Christening is that the adults can have a tippie at the same time.

Why not top up everyone's glasses before the ceremony begins and raise a toast to your special little person.

Give the kids soft drinks so they can join in too.



# Sing!

Music helps to set the tone of a baby naming. As well as thinking about some fun entrance and exit music, it's worth considering including a nursery rhyme or children's song for everyone to get involved with during the ceremony, especially if you know your baby's favourite. It's a really sweet addition to have all of the guests sing to your baby.



# Get Your Guests Involved

- Have your significant guests say readings, sing, perform a dance – use whatever talents they have to add interest.
- You could walk around with your child, or pass them around whilst everyone makes promises, gives them good wishes, or collectively sings to them.
- The guests could unite in reciting a 'promise' to your child.
- Siblings come and take a turn at holding the child, each repeating a promise to look after him or her, or simply repeating the baby's full name.



# Adult Re-Naming Ceremonies

There are plenty of reasons to change your name as an adult.

☯ marriage

☯ divorce

☯ to create a new surname together with your partner

☯ to distance yourself from an abusive parent

☯ because you are fed up of having the same name as a celebrity

☯ because you had never liked the name you were given at birth

Re-naming often comes with a newfound feeling of freedom and liberation so why not take this juncture in your story as an opportunity to celebrate your strength, resilience and fresh independence with those closest to you?

This type of ceremony is always unique because it will be crafted to meet your needs and style so that it feels right for you. Because of this, they can be incredibly varied but always personal and I am here to guide you through the whole process.



# Transgender / Non-Binary / Gender-Fluid Re-Naming Ceremonies

This ceremony marks a very important transition in your life, leaving behind the old and looking forward to a more comfortable, confident, authentic future.

You can hold these ceremonies as a rite of passage.

A moment to say to those around you, this is who I am.

Share this new milestone in your lives.

You can honour your whole self, both past, present and future.

It is also an opportunity to offer thanks to family and friends who have supported and guided you along the path and share your hopes and dreams of the future as your new identity.

You can personalise your ceremony with readings, music, or personal touches of exchanging gifts, signing certificates, or even creating a wonderful memento. Like a wall hanging or plaque that family and friends can write wishes on. You can also include a religious element if this is important to you as an individual.

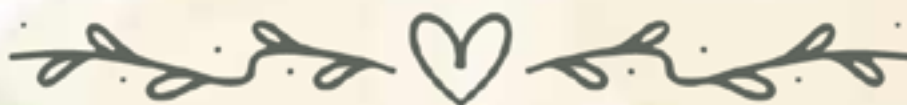
Everyone's journey is different and so each ceremony reflects each individual and your story.

I will work with you to create something personal and meaningful to celebrate your new name and identity.





**Couples Ceremonies**  
**Funerals & Memorials**  
**Naming Ceremonies**



**Ruth Harris**

Qualified Independent Civil Celebrant

[ruth@thepembscelebrant.co.uk](mailto:ruth@thepembscelebrant.co.uk)

07875 410 374

[www.thepembscelebrant.co.uk](http://www.thepembscelebrant.co.uk)