

*Temple Bat Yahm*

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Parent's Speech Guidelines

One of the most special moments of the Bar/Bat mitzvah is the opportunity for the parent to speak to the child. These brief moments follow the Bar/Bat mitzvah student's reading of Torah.

In writing your speech, we ask that you respect these 3 guidelines:

1. Please consider what is appropriate for the service and what might also be saved for other opportunities, such as a luncheon or dinner celebration. In order to provide a seamless blend with the tone of the moment (your child will have just completed the reading of Torah and the Torah will be out on the lectern), **the focus of the parents' remarks should be on a lesson from the Torah/Haftarah portion, Jewish identity, Jewish community, faith, mitzvot, etc.** Remarks that detail the child's accomplishments in school, athletics, etc, can be enjoyed more fully in other celebration settings.
2. Please consider the length of your comments. Your child's essay will be about 2-4 minutes in length. By comparison, yours should be no longer, if the focus is to remain on the Bar/ Bat mitzvah student.
3. If both parents intend to speak, they should coordinate their comments, in order to avoid repetition.

These guidelines are intended to provide assistance to parents in preparation for the meaningful role that parents will assume in the service. The Rabbis and Cantor are more than happy to help answer any questions or provide assistance when they meet with you and your child in the weeks prior to the service.