

JRC B'nai Mitzvah
Parents' Blessing Information

After the bar/bat mitzvah delivers their dvar Torah, the parents will be invited to the bimah to offer words of blessing. Please keep in mind the following guidelines:

- The parents' comments should total 250 words each. We ask that you respect this limit so that your blessing to your child is meaningful, but does not overtake your child's Dvar Torah.
- It is not necessary to recite excessive thank you's, or repeat a teaching or offering that your child has already shared. We know everyone is happy to have their community around them, and ask that you save longer comments for a reception or celebration.
- This is your opportunity to share with your child your blessings, wishes and hopes for them as they stand in this moment of ritual transition into adulthood. What do you hope your child is blessed with? What do you offer them to carry into this next phase of their lives?
- Your blessing may include an anecdote that illustrate your child's character, but nothing that would be appropriate to include on a resume.
- Please be thoughtful and sensitive to this public moment. While there are many private moments in your lives to share how proud you are of all of your child's wonderful accomplishments, this is not an opportunity to list them all. We are all proud of our children and their individual successes and abilities, but we ask you to be sensitive to the fact that this is not a competition, a moment to brag, or an opportunity for comparison. Part of being part of a community is recognizing that in your audience there will be parents and children with different levels of accomplishment and different kinds of intelligence. There will be many times to praise a grade-point-average or a starring role; this is a moment of pride, love, and blessing as they choose to step into Jewish adulthood.