



JCC Greater
Boston

Blessing the Children

The words of the blessing are taken from the priestly blessing and the introduction is altered depending on whether the child being blessed is a boy or girl. Usually the person giving the blessing places one or both hands on the child's head.

For boys, the introductory line is:

May you be like Ephraim and Menashe.

יְשִׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּאַפְרַיִם וְכַמְנַשֶּׁה.

For girls, the introductory line is:

May you be like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah.

יְשִׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּשָׂרָה, רַבֵּקָה, רָחֵל, וְלֵאָה וְרַחֵל.

For both boys and girls, the rest of the blessing is:

May God bless you and guard you.

יְבָרְכֶךָ יי וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ.

May God show you favor and be gracious to you.

יָאֵר יי פְּנֵי אֱלֹהֶיךָ וַיִּתְּנֶךָ.

May God show you kindness and grant you peace.

יִשָּׂא יי פְּנֵי אֱלֹהֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם.

Courtesy of: myjewishlearning.com/article/shabbat-blessings/