

## PERSPECTIVE: A Love Letter to My Child

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*I wrote this love letter about four years ago after the birth of my daughter. I wrote it for a naming ceremony we had for friends and family, and was fascinated when going back through my writings to see how closely related in philosophy it was to Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism.*

*I have been chanting since November 1996, and received the Gohonzon on March 2, 1997. I have been working since 1995 to become proficient as a children's author for truthful, intelligent literature. When I met the Gohonzon, I realized that my writing for children and their parents was now for kosen-rufu.*

For you, my child, I wish for you to be embraced by kindness, touched by gentleness, and loved by the most tender hearts.

I wish for you to strive for the truth, to trust it, to speak on its behalf and to listen to what other people have to say.

I wish for you to do the right thing, even if it is easier not to. And to remember that there is plenty of everything good to go around. It is your job to be happy.

I wish for you to go the distance. To reach for the stars. To make lots of wishes in wishing wells. And to go to lots of birthday parties.

I wish for you to find happiness in giving your favorite bugs away, in sharing the candies and whipped cream on your hot fudge sundae, and in laughing and giggling until everyone else is laughing and giggling, too.

I wish for you to know that your heart will sometimes whisper in your ear. It will advise you about which direction to go. It is your job then to listen carefully.

Sometimes it will tell you to paint pictures of ladybugs, and sometimes it will tell you to go to the beach and watch the sun dive into the sea, and sometimes it will tell you to tell someone you love that you love them. Your heart is full of your dreams, and the bigger your heart, the more dreams you have to come true.

I wish for you to honor, respect and care deeply for yourself and others, and to be devoted to that which is important to you. To dance on your tippy toes.

And to sing your unique song to the world.

I wish to remind you to make a new friend every day.

I wish for you to keep smiling, and if someone doesn't smile back, it doesn't mean that they don't like you — it just means that you need to smile again until someone does smile back.

I wish for you to always remember how loved you are...and if you forget, please let me remind you.

I wish for you to have many best friends and to be the best friend of many and to understand there is something to like about everyone.

I wish for you to stay close to people and connected to all living things. To experience the world as a safe, friendly and loving place, where you make a difference.

I wish for you to know yourself, and, most important, to be yourself.

Each time I hold you in my arms, I get more determined than ever to make certain that our world is a peaceful one.

**WT**

Title: Perspective: A Love Letter to My Child

Subject: World Tribune 03/13/98 n.3182 p.3 WT980313p03 Menlo Park, California

Author: Michele Katriel Cohen

Keywords: California Child Children Experiences Family January June Letter Love Menlo Mothers Opinion Parenting Park Perspectives Relationships Tribune World