

Getting Ready for the Service

By Izzy Brown

You can get so caught up in planning your celebration that you overlook important steps preparing for the religious service. Here's a checklist that will help you keep track of them.

ONE YEAR BEFORE

- Your child begins learning the Torah portion for the *bar/bat mitzvah*. You may have a meeting with the rabbi or cantor at this time to go over family and synagogue expectations.
Date of the meeting with the rabbi or cantor: _____

NINE MONTHS BEFORE

- Hire a tutor to help your child prepare. Discuss what parts of the service the child will lead in addition to the *Torah* and *haftarah* reading, and start to learn them.
Name and info. of the tutor: _____

SIX MONTHS BEFORE

- Your child should begin working on a mitzvah project.
Mitzvah project: _____

- Decide who gets aliyahs and other honors during the service. Let the rabbi know and let the honorees know in case they have to prepare.

THREE MONTHS BEFORE

- Your child should start writing his speech.

TWO MONTHS BEFORE

- Review your child's speech.
 Plan the siblings' role.

FOUR WEEKS BEFORE

- Write the speech you will deliver to the congregation.

