

Praying Together

Begin by just sitting quietly for a few moments; aware of God's presence.

As you pray, use the following words or some of your own

When you are both ready, start by stroking or cradling baby's head.

Whilst doing this look at your baby and talk to God about your hopes and dreams for your child as they grow up but also about your fears.

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of ... I pray that you are with them as they grow and journey through life. Help them to fulfil their potential; developing their gifts and talents. Fill them with courage to face each challenge and new day.

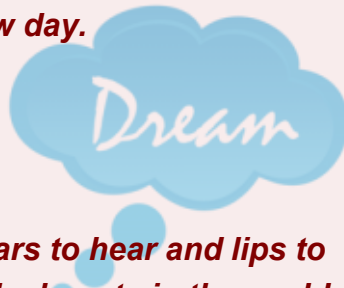
Amen

Or

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of eyes to see, ears to hear and lips to speak. Help ...to use their eyes to see the beauty in the world, both in the gifts of creation and in people. Help them to listen and hear the truth. May ...use their lips to speak the truth. Give them the courage to speak out for injustice and the confidence to share you're love through the things they do and say.

Amen



Next place your hands on baby's shoulders

Ask God to help them turn away from negativity and help them make positive choices through their life. Ask God to help you as baby grows; with the challenges of daily life.

Dear God,

Be with ..., may they trust in you and know you. Help them to turn away from doing wrong and towards you. Give them the strength to make positive choices in life and the courage to stand for what they believe.

Amen

Take hold of baby's hands

Begin by clapping the hands together and thanking God for the gifts of creation, especially your baby. Ask God to help them use their hands to look after others and all things created by God, especially those who are struggling or in need.

Almighty God, creator of all things,

Thank you for the gift of Help us to care for each other, our families and friends even when we fall out or disagree. Help us to be kind to people we don't know and look after your world.

Amen



Hands can also be used to praise God. Baby can clap hands while you sing or clap and sing together. You could also spend some time exploring what hands can do; waving, pointing, clasping, tapping or banging.

Place hands over baby's chest and heart

The heart is often associated with health and love. Talk to God about the people you love and about health and health issues. It is also important to think about broken relationships and say sorry for when you might have hurt people, though words, actions and things you have not done.

Loving God,

Thank you for our family and friends, for people who help us; doctors, nurses, police, teachers, ..., be with them in their work. Help us to be more like Jesus, coming close to people and helping others, both through our words and in what we do. Sorry for hurting others even if we don't mean to.

Amen

Move to baby's tummy

Think about saying thank you for the food we eat and those who don't have enough. Also give thanks for those who produce it; farmers, factory workers, truck drivers and shop staff.

Almighty God,

Thank you for the sun and the rain which helps our food to grow and for those who help to produce it; farmers, factory workers, truck drivers and all the shop staff. We remember those who struggle to find enough food to feed their families and those who have too much sun or too much rain meaning that crops do not grow and they do not have food to eat.

Amen

Hold baby's feet or lift them to standing

Think about where your feet may take you through life and ask God to be with you as you journey. Also ask for strength to stand strong through tough times.

Help us to follow you loving Jesus, guide as we journey with you. Give us strength and courage when the path becomes tough or uncertain. Help us to keep trusting and looking to you.

Amen

Thank God for making each one of us. We are all individuals; each with blemishes and areas we are not happy with but created and loved by God.

Finish with a blessing;

*The Lord bless you, and keep you:
The Lord make his face
shine upon you, and be
gracious to you:
The Lord turn his face towards
you, and give you peace.*

Numbers 6:24-26

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all.

2 Corinthians 13:14

