

# 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.  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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## 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.  
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