



Tips from Cantor Barbra Lieberstein

WE WERE JUST INFORMED OF OUR CHILD'S BAR/BAT MITZVAH DATE ... WHAT IS THE FIRST THING WE SHOULD DO?

Attend a meeting with your rabbi or cantor to find out what the requirements are for your child to learn as far as prayers, Torah and Haftarah readings, speeches, and mitzvah projects.

WHAT IS OUR FAMILY'S ROLE DURING THE WEEKEND?

Find out from your rabbi or cantor how many aliyot will be given to your family. You may want to ask the clergyman for a transliterated version to send to those relatives and friends who cannot read Hebrew as well as a CD or mp3's of the Torah blessings. It is also a good idea for you as parents to practice chanting or reciting the Torah blessings with your child so that you are studying together.

WHAT READING MATERIALS WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FOR BECOMING MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE TORAH?

The Conservative movement has a chumash, Eitz Hayim (Torah with translation and the Haftarah, the prophets) with the translation of each Torah portion as well as commentary. The Reform movement, Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), also publishes a chumash, The Torah, A Modern Commentary. Their website : www.urj-booksandmusic.org contains booklets for each Torah portion that one can order and study with their child.