



FROM MOTHER TO MOTHER

We share with you a letter sent to a mother when her son with Down syndrome was born.

Dear Malky,

Mazel Tov on the birth of your son!

My daughter Chani was born six years ago with Down syndrome. The first thing I must tell you is that we absolutely love and cherish her.

When I think about those first few weeks after Chani was born, I still can't believe how I lived through it. We were a young couple and she is our second child. At the time, I did not really know anyone with a child with Down syndrome, and I was completely overwhelmed and emotional about the new journey ahead. The unknown was very scary. Even saying the words, "My baby has Down syndrome," was so difficult. Every person I spoke to, and every article I read brought some more tears, but I can honestly say that the tears stopped flowing. With time, knowledge, and information,

it really gets much easier. Although I definitely do have my ups and downs, I adore her, and feel that she was given to our family as a special gift that Hashem wants us to raise. (Although we often forget that she is "special"!)

Sharing the news with family and friends was important, yet quite challenging. Sometimes, I felt that I had to give chizuk and comfort to others. I kept saying, "With Hashem's help, she will be a bracha". (Her full name is Chana Bracha.) Baruch Hashem, it didn't take long to feel that she truly is a bracha.

People did not always know what to say, and even felt uncomfortable at the beginning. But in general, I found and still find that people take their cues from me. When I make it obvious how I enjoy and love Chani, it really spills over to others.

My whole family has grown so much. We learned not to take anything for granted, and we appreciate each and every step she takes. We cheer her on through each new milestone that she accomplishes.

Our extended family is crazy about her. She has a true simchas hachaim that permeates our home. Her love of life, enthusiasm to learn, and the most beautiful disposition, teaches us how to live and conduct ourselves with simcha. She showers us with an abundance of love that is hard to describe. I"YH, your son will bring you and your family so much happiness and loads of nachas.

Hakadosh Boruch Hu should bench us all with strength and hatzlacha in raising our precious children.

Kol Tuv,
Leah ♡