

# 163. Muslim Childhood - PowerPoint One

**Muslim Children Growing Up**

A new baby is born  
The Aqiqah and prayers  
Learning to read *Qur'an* and the *Quran*

All around the world, people have their own customs for welcoming a new baby.

Babies are too young to understand what is going on but, once the welcome has been completed, the family know that the new baby is now a member of their society or of their job.

When a **Muslim** baby is born it is a very happy time because the baby has been born into the **Islamic religion**.  
The word **Islam** means peace.  
Muslims believe that all babies are gifts from **Allah**.  
In Muslim families traditions are always celebrated with lots of rejoicing and happiness.

As soon as the baby is born he or she is given a bath. Bathing is a symbol of purity.

Then the **Aqiqah** and **Aqiqah** are celebrated into the baby's name, by the baby's father.  
There are the Muslim calls to prayer. It is very important that these are the first words that the baby hears because they are a symbol of entering the Islamic faith.

The man in this picture is whispering the **Ashhad** prayer into the baby's right ear soon after the baby's birth.  
The first word the baby will hear is 'Allah'!

A small piece of chewed date, honey or sugar is rubbed onto the baby's gums or put into the baby's mouth. This is the **shahadah**. It is believed that the baby will grow up to be smart and obedient. After that there are prayers for the baby and the baby's family.

On the seventh day after the baby is born it is time for **Aqiqah**. This is a time for family celebration. It is when the baby's name is announced and there is a special feast.

This is an **Aqiqah** certificate that is given to the baby's parents after the ceremony.  
Not all Muslim families celebrate in exactly the same way but there are traditional ways that Muslims are encouraged to follow.

At the **Aqiqah**, the baby's hair is shaved off and weighed. The weight of the baby's hair is balanced with gold or silver coins and the money is given to charities that help the poor.  
Often extra money is given as a way of thanking Allah for the gift of the baby.

The baby's name is given. Choosing the right name is very important. Usually the name is taken from the Prophet's family.  
Other names that are popular start with 'Abd' - 'Abd means servant' and it is often added to one of the names of God.  
**Muhammad - Servant of God**  
**Muhammad - Servant of the Prophet**

The parents of the first born child can choose their own names so that they are called by the same name as their baby.  
If the baby is called **Hasan**, the **Daughter** of **Hasan** would become **Abu** **Hasan** (father of **Hasan**) and the mother would be **Umm** **Hasan** (mother of **Hasan**).

There is a feast to celebrate the occasion.  
If the baby is a boy, the meat from two lambs for qurban is cooked and eaten and if the baby is a girl the meat from one lamb is cooked and eaten.  
Some of the meat will be given to the poor as a way of saying thanks to Allah for the life of the new baby.

After an early night, babies start spending time in the mosque to learn about their religion.  
They are given a **Qur'an**.

A mosque is a house of prayer and is a very important place for Muslims. Whatever prayer enters a mosque they must wash their feet off their shoes and socks.  
The call to prayer can be heard twice a day outside the mosque. The mosque has a big prayer hall and a gallery for women. Men and women don't sit together.

The **Imam** is the man who leads the prayers and the mosque.

Muslims pray five times every day. They pray at dawn, mid-day, late afternoon, dusk and after dark. In Muslim countries people pray at school or at the places where they work or even in the street. Many Muslims own prayer mats that they spread out at prayer time so that they can pray.

From an early age, Muslim children go to the mosque to learn about their religion.  
Muslims believe that the **Qur'an** was sent by **Allah**. Allah is the god that Muslims worship - Allah means God. Muslims believe that the **Qur'an** is Allah's message to all Muslims.  
The **Qur'an** is never allowed to touch the ground so it is placed on a stand to be read.

When the **Qur'an** is not being read it is kept in a chest to keep it clean. Muslims must always wash before they touch the **Qur'an**. The **Qur'an** tells Muslim people how to live their lives.  
Muslims believe that since the **Qur'an** was written, long ago in **Arabic**, it should be read in **Arabic**.

Every Muslim boy must learn to read and to recite the **Qur'an**. It contains the Word of God (**Allah**) which was written down long ago by the Prophet **Muhammad** (Peace Be Upon Him).  
This lesson is washing the Muslim children's hands before they start learning.

In some parts of the world Muslims have a **Haram** ceremony. It's a very happy time for Muslim families. The ceremony takes place when children are four years, four months and four weeks old.  
It is the first time that they will begin learning to read the **Qur'an**.

The child's father and friends teach the child at home. Children are taught the first lessons from the **Qur'an** which begins 'In the name of Allah, the most gracious and merciful.'  
They are also taught some of the verses from the **Qur'an** and then at the end of the lesson, every one celebrates and eats sweets and cakes.

The little boy in this picture is being taught to read the **Qur'an**. The father and the boy both have their hair shaved to show respect to the **Qur'an**. Can you see the special table for the **Qur'an**?

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## 163. Muslim Childhood - PowerPoint One Continued



### Muslim Children Growing Up

**A new baby is born** —How do Muslims welcome the birth of their child?

Whispering in the Muslim baby's ears. The tahnik. The Aqiqah.

Announcing the baby's name and the Muslim naming ceremony..

**The Mosque and prayers.** What is a mosque? Muslim children learning about the Qur'an and learning to read Arabic. Bismallah ceremony.

What is expected of Muslim children by the age of seven—dress, prayers.

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