



Throughout your daughter's life, there will be wonderful moments to celebrate. From momentous birthdays to her changing body, there are so many opportunities to make your daughter feel noticed and loved as she grows into a young woman. We've included a list of ideas for you to consider, but you know your daughter best and which celebrations (and ways to celebrate) would mean the most to her. Don't feel like you have to do them all and adjust them to fit your family.

10TH BIRTHDAY

Your daughter has graduated to double digits.

- Plan a special one-on-one adventure. This could be as simple as a picnic or as elaborate as a road trip to a place she's never visited. Take this opportunity to be sure she understands body changes and has a safe space to ask questions.
- Consider giving her a gift that allows her to take on a new responsibility. It could be anything from a new pet to a special piece of jewelry. This gift signifies you trust her and are seeing this transition as a shift in her maturity. Explain how age comes with responsibility, and let her know you are so proud of how she is growing in this area.

ELEMENTARY GRADUATION

Your daughter is on her way to Middle School.

- Gather together some middle school survival supplies—deodorant, combination lock, face wash, gym socks, etc. Put them in a basket along with a note about how excited you are for your daughter's new journey as a middle schooler. Present the gift to your graduate at dinner with the family, congratulating your rising middle schooler on their accomplishment.
- Plan an activity you rarely get to do together, like rock climbing or roller skating. Let your daughter know that no matter how much she grows up, you will always love hanging out with her.
- Invite her class or a group of friends over to your house or community pool for a party. Let them jump in a pool with their clothes on, or simply fill up a bucket of water balloons and start a water balloon fight.
- Ask her elementary teachers to sign a book for her (like, *All the Places You will Go* by Dr. Seuss or *Hooray For You* by Marianne Richmond) and give it to her at a family celebration dinner.

TREASURED

MOMENTS TO CELEBRATE

13TH BIRTHDAY

Your daughter is officially a teenager.

- Host a special dinner or dessert night with close family and friends. This is a great time to fill her heart with confidence-building words that will carry her forward. Consider writing her a personal letter or sharing your words in front of her friends and family. Share the positive things you have always seen in her and what you believe for her future.
- Give her a treasure box filled with letters from key mentors and loved ones. Ask them to offer life advice or key scriptures to encourage her.
- Take her to get a makeover and learn about proper skin care. Give her some tips on how to be responsible for her body.
- Give her a mirror with words written on it that reminds her she is beautifully and wonderfully made.
- Ask another adult (or more than one) who has made an impact on you or your daughter to invest one-on-one time with her this year, to teach her a new skill, or offer words of wisdom in their particular area of expertise. Every kid needs another adult in their life besides their parent who they can talk to.

CHANGING BODIES

Your daughter is becoming a woman.

Tip: Some girls would be embarrassed by a celebration and others would love that you made it special. Make sure you keep your daughter's personal preferences in mind.

- As she begins to develop breasts, instead of making her feel embarrassed, make it fun. Go shopping for bras and celebrate with a favorite treat or lunch.
- Prepare a small makeup bag with sanitary supplies and extra panties for school. Put her at ease by explaining that every girl's body clock is different, but that it's good to have a game plan. Consult your pediatrician for advice on timing.
- Once she starts her period, take her for dessert or out for a manicure to celebrate. Or throw in a chocolate treat when you buy her supplies.

Keep in mind that she may not want you to make a big deal of it, and that's fine too. Be encouraging and let her know you are proud of her for the woman she is becoming and that you are a safe place to come to with questions.

FAITH JOURNEY

Your daughter made a decision about her faith (salvation, baptism, etc.).

- Get her a new Bible or devotional, and write a special blessing in the front.
- Take her to dinner and celebrate her life-changing decision with family and friends. Invite friends and key mentors to the event to celebrate with her.
- Invite an older female friend or mentor to walk alongside her for the next several years. She will want someone (other than her mom) to confide in when she has questions or tough struggles.

THE EVERYDAY MOMENTS

- Send a note of encouragement in her lunchbox recognizing a character trait you have seen her grow in.
- Pick her up from school with her favorite drink after a hard test.
- Show up with flowers in her favorite color at the end of her recital or school play.
- Stand on the sidelines of her game or the finish line of her hardest meet.
- Celebrate the process and not just the completion of a project or assignment.
- Cheer her on for trying, not just winning.