

Ways of including children



Depending on the age of the child:

- ~ have your child **carry a toy** that the **rings are tied onto** and bring him/her forward when you come to exchange rings, eg. a teddy bear
- ~ you can **make promises to your child** as well as to each other or promises to each other about supporting each other in your parenting
- ~ **mentioning your child** in the ceremony and including a **reading about families** or children
- ~ older children can do a reading
- ~ have your child **dressed in colours to suit** your bridal party
- ~ they can play a role as **flower girls, bridesmaids, best men or ring bearers**, or witnesses, depending on their age
- ~ you may **give them a gift** during the ceremony, with some **words of thanks** for being a part of your life and your family – thank you <name> for enriching our lives with <a favourite attribute of your child, eg your beautiful smile, your great sense of humour etc> and we promise to love you and nurture you and support you to reach your dreams and goals...
- ~ they may participate in a family ritual such as **candle lighting, pouring of sand or water or pebbles** to represent the merging of all of you into the marriage
- ~ they may **give away the Bride or the Groom or both** in the ceremony
- ~ present them with a **certificate** of acknowledgement or participation
- ~ children may sign a **family wedding certificate**, along with the bride and groom
- ~ ask your child what they would like to do—often they will have a great idea about what to do!

About Marlee Bruinsma

Marlee offers you an **obligation-free meeting** - a chance to ask questions, ask for suggestions to suit your particular circumstances and wishes for your ceremony and to see if she is the right celebrant for you.

She **celebrates** weddings, renewal of vows, commitment ceremonies and baby namings.

She looks forward to helping you with **your ceremony** so that it reflects your style, includes your ideas and thoughts and celebrates your joy.

Just wanted to say thank you sooooo much for making our wedding day perfect. Everyone said the ceremony was one of the best they had witnessed, with plenty of tears & laughter.
- Sharryn and Gavin

“Marlee, thank you so much for everything you did for us, our ceremony was so perfect, and really did share that magic with everyone present on the day. Our day felt like a fairytale and you were a big part in making it so memorable.”
- Matt and Kassie



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Ceremonies as individual as you are

Ideas for your ceremony



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Items to consider including in your ceremony

- Procession by bride and attendants or by bride and groom or by bride and/or groom and parents and/or children
- Readings by friend or family
- A love letter to your partner
- Handfasting
- Candles
- Sand ceremony
- Wine ceremony
- Water ceremony
- The elements—air, fire, water and earth
- Crystals
- Bell ringing for loved ones no longer with you
- Vows by guests/parents
- Treasure box
- Warming of the rings
- Unity bowl
- Broom and sword
- Cake and ale/wine
- Ivy wreath
- Chakra ribbons
- Circle of love by guests
- Elements from your culture or beliefs
- Colour
- Music
- Fun and laughter

Using colour in your ceremony

Using colours in your ceremony can have a special significance. **Each colour has a special meaning.** It can be represented in the form of **ribbons** tied to trees as decoration, on the handle of the Jumping Broom, used during a Handfasting Ceremony, the colour of **candles** or your **flowers**. Here is just one interpretation of colour and you may find or know other meanings for colours that you prefer. The important thing is for you to feel comfortable with any colours you have chosen. Scientifically and energetically, **each colour vibrates** at a different rate and you will either feel comfortable with that vibration or you will not. So, more than the meaning, go on the way you feel when you look at a colour—some will feel **uplifting** for you and some may not have any effect while some you may actually dislike.

Dark Blue - for a safe journey and longevity

Light Blue - for understanding and patience

Pink - for romance, honour, partnership and happiness

Green - for health, prosperity, luck, fertility and beauty

Red - for courage, strength and passion

Yellow - for wisdom and harmony

Brown - for healing animals and the home

Silver - for creativity and protection

Gold - for unity, prosperity, and longevity

White - for peace, sincerity and devotion

Symbols

You can use **symbolic elements** in your ceremony, such as **colours, flowers, symbols** now in global use due to our multiculturalism eg. Tibetan prayer flags, or items from your own **cultural heritage or family history**, or symbols that are specific to your own relationship, for example, the stuffed toy that somehow has come to be your mascot may be placed on the **signing table**. You do not have to use symbols in your ceremony, although **many brides still wear something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue!** Flowers and plants have symbolic meanings—an old tradition is the carrying of a posy, which will contain **herbs and wildflowers**, all with their own meanings and significance. In the **Ivy Wreath ceremony**, good friends or family place different flowers and herbs in a wreath and speak about the significance of each and what **wishes** they represent **for your marriage**.

Themes

If you have selected a theme for your reception, this can also be included in your ceremony. Ways of doing this are by asking guests to wear certain styles or colours of clothing, **decorating the ceremony area** in the same theme, having the celebrant talk about marriage in terms of your theme, eg. Love and gardens, famous quotes from plays or movies if you have a theatrical or cinema theme etc.

Readings

Poetry, quotes from philosophers, ancient and modern, contemporary, spiritual, non-religious, or religious, funny, romantic, light-hearted—these are **chosen by you** and read by guests, or family, or friends, or the celebrant.

