



The Bar Mitzvah Checklist

Note that as nuances among communities differ, many items may not be relevant to all.

6-12 Months Ahead:

- ☐ **Order Tefillin.** Depending on the sofer your family prefers, you may need to do this more than a year ahead of time.
- ☐ **Book the hall/caterer.** You do not need to do this so early if you are not particular about a specific place and specific day.
- ☐ **For your son: Begin practicing to lein his parsha.** This may include hiring someone to start learning the parsha with your son.
- ☐ **For your son: Set a bar mitzvah goal.** Optional, if the boy desires. Some boys flourish when there's a challenge (i.e. finishing a mesechta/mishnayos), but don't push if it's not for your son.
- ☐ **The tallis bag.** If your son will want a needlepoint tallet/tefillin bag, this takes a lot of time and should be started well ahead.

2-6 Months Ahead:

- ☐ Arrange photographer
- ☐ Arrange music
- ☐ Arrange hair/makeup
- ☐ Work on your guest list
- ☐ For Shabbos Simchas: Work on accommodations for your guests

6-8 Weeks Ahead:

- ☐ **Look for dresses for mom and daughters!** *Note, if you have girls that you would like to match, you will want to look in the beginning of the season.*
- ☐ **Plan invitation or evite**
- ☐ **Order tefillin bag**
- ☐ **Shop for bar mitzvah boy (don't tailor suits until 3 weeks before)**
 - ☐ **Suit** (or Bekishe if that is your custom)
 - ☐ **White Shirts**
 - ☐ **Davening Jacket**
 - ☐ **Shabbos Hat**
 - ☐ **Weekday Hat**
 - ☐ **Shabbos Shoes** *In case of a growth spurt, purchase these closer to bar mitzvah. Wear a couple of times around the house to break them in.*
 - ☐ **Weekday Loafers**
 - ☐ **Tie**
 - ☐ **Belt**
 - ☐ **Shabbos Coat**
- ☐ **Depending on your family's custom, the bar mitzvah boy might start putting on his tefillin at some point earlier than his actual bar mitzvah.** *Make sure to have his weekday clothing (hat/davening jacket) available for this day.*

3-4 Weeks Ahead:

☐ **The speech/pshetel.** The bar mitzvah boy will likely need assistance preparing and practicing this (Of course, this is often done at the last minute as well).

Mail invitations

☐ **Finalize menu with caterer/arrange the shul kiddush**

☐ **Get girls accessories: socks, shoes, hair, shells if needed**

☐ **Get mom's accessories**

☐ **Get little boys outfits / siblings suits / infants outfit / other new clothing if needed.** You may want to do this in the beginning of the season, depending on when your bar mitzvah falls out.

☐ **Book rentals** (i.e. tables/chairs) if you will need. This can also be done closer to the event, but it's wise to plan ahead.

☐ **Arrange tablecloths** and other decor-related items.

☐ **Shabbos simchas:** Take care of hostess packages/gifts for those hosting your guests. If this is something you will need, there's no reason to leave it for last minute.

1-2 Weeks Ahead:

☐ Give notice to those whom you would like to speak at the bar mitzvah. (It is recommended not to overdo this).

☐ Confirm your vendors

☐ Book a babysitter to help you with your baby during the simcha.

☐ Drop off your sheital to be done.

That Week:

☐ Pick Up Your Sheital

The Day of the Simcha:

☐ Your makeup

☐ Your girls' hair

☐ Eat lunch!

for more detailed information or bonus tips visit betweenarpools.com and search for our complete Bar Mitzvah Guide.

