



# LESSONS FROM THE REBBETZIN ABOUT RAISING CHILDREN

CHILDREN MUST  
HAVE JOBS IN THE  
HOUSE ON EREV  
SHABBOS

RISHE DEITSCH

## **RABBI YEHUDA CLAPMAN SPEAKS:**

We had been making Chanukah candles for the Rebbetzin for a number of years and my daughter Miriam, then about nine years old, asked the Rebbetzin if it would be okay if she also made her Shabbos candles every week.

The Rebbetzin replied, “Will you still be able to do your Erev Shabbos household jobs?”

Miriam replied, “Yes. I can do both.”

But this wasn’t enough for the Rebbetzin, who replied, “Let’s ask your mother.”



▲ Mrs. Esther Sternberg gave birth to baby Rochel in 1981. The baby grew up to become Rebbetzin Rochel Edelman, shluchah to Luxembourg.

◀ Rabbi Yehuda Clapman, Mrs. Tzippy Clapman, and Miriam, who is now Mrs. Miriam Gordon of Encino, CA.

My wife Tzippy was there, so the Rebbetzin turned to her and asked, “What do you say?”

Tzippy replied, “If Miriam says she can do both, I believe she can.”

Miriam began making Shabbos candles for the Rebbetzin and delivering them each Friday. As suggested by Rabbi Elye Gross (a *mashpia* of mine), if she couldn’t make candles one week, she would bring bought candles, so the Rebbetzin knew she could rely on her.

*What I love about this story: First, the obvious lesson, that children must have jobs in the house on Erev Shabbos. And that their parents shouldn’t let them off the hook even for the loftiest excuse.*

*Also, I loved how the Rebbetzin had no problem differentiating between adults and children (something that is considered non-politically-correct today, when teachers call students “friends” and children call parents by their first names). Even though Miriam said she could do both the candles and the Shabbos jobs, the Rebbetzin said to check with her mother. The child’s own word wasn’t sufficient. Because children are children, and adults are adults. Hurray!*

## EVEN NEWBORN BABIES NEED TO HEAR CHASSIDUS

*Mrs. Esther Sternberg spoke at the recent (Nov. 18, 2016) Shabbaton held by The Beis Medrash Women’s Circle of Crown Heights. She told many beautiful and valuable stories from her own life. My favorite was...*

**It was 20 Av in the year 5741 (1981). The Rebbe was going to *farbreng* that night in honor of his father, Reb Levik’s, *yahrzeit*.**

**I was in my hospital room recovering from a C-section, with my newborn baby Rochel in a crib right near me. The phone rang; it was the Rebbetzin calling to check up on me. And then she had a question:**

**“Do you have a way to hear the *farbrengen* in the hospital?”**

**I replied that I had a hookup number to call, and I could do that from the hospital. The Rebbetzin was so happy to hear that, and replied, “That’s wonderful! So then you can take the baby into your bed with you and place the phone between both of you, because it is important for even very young babies to hear Chassidus.”**

**My baby needs to hear Chassidus? I couldn’t understand what the Rebbetzin wanted from me. But as the years passed and we became more and more aware, thanks to**

**the Rebbe, of the effect of every sound and smell an infant is exposed to (even before birth), it made perfect sense to me. Who can measure the beneficial, even life-changing, effect of hearing the *nosi hador* speak?**

*It is not enough to be careful with what our children are or are not exposed to.*

*We need to be proactive and deliberately, thoughtfully, expose our children, even babies, to the proper words, music, songs, and atmosphere*

*These are just two lessons in chinuch from our beloved Rebbetzin whose 29th *yahrzeit* takes place on 22 Shvat.*

Mrs. Esther Sternberg speaking at WC Shabbaton.

