Birkat Cohanim: Talit over Child's Head

It is a custom for fathers to cover their sons' heads with their *talit* while the priests/*cohanim* bless the congregation.

REASON So the boys do not to look at the Divine Presence (*shechina)* present at the priests'/*cohanim*'s fingertips at that time.

NOTE The priests'/*cohanim's* hands should be covered by a *talit* anyway.

NOTE This custom applies to ANYTIME the priests/*cohanim* say *birkat cohanim*, whether on:

- *Jewish festivals* (the only time the priests/*cohanim* say this blessing outside of *Eretz Yisrael*), or
- Daily (as is done in *Eretz Yisrael)*.

© Copyright 2026 Richard B. Aiken | www.practicalhalacha.com