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If you love someone, put their name in a circle: because hearts can be broken but circles never end.

- Anonymous

The first thing given to you at birth is your name. Some people have terrific and/ or funny stories about their names and others have no story at all. It seems like one parent likes a name the other does not. Sometimes it is one parent that does the naming because the two cannot agree. There are hundreds of books to help choose a name. There are also hundreds of people ready to give you advice on naming. Some people give no thought to the name they give their child while some don't even have a name by the time the child is leaving the hospital.

My father gave my name to me. I do like my name. I did not know another Barb the whole time I was growing up. It wasn't until I was 18 and working that I encountered my first Barb. There is something funny when you are introduced to another person with your name. We automatically want to know the middle name.

When it was time to name our children, we could not agree on a name for our daughter. My sister actually gave us the name they were going to use when they discovered their child was a boy. Her name is Nicole Marie. Our son was just as difficult to name. My husband wanted him to be named after himself. We already have so many Richards in the family I did not want another. We got the name Adam off of a TV show. His name became Adam Richard.

Why did I choose the topic of names this month? I have heard the name Adam several times this past week from strangers, over heard conversations and TV. It reminds me every time I hear it that my Adam is not here. All this time has passed and I still get a flutter in my heart when I hear it. When our son was named we did not know another Adam or have any in the family. He truly was one of a kind!

The name Adam Richard Furstoss was added to our circle on July 30, 1982. Yes, our hearts are broken but we are reminded over and over again when we hear his name how he is a part of our family circle. His name is never taboo. We talk about him all the time like he is still here. Why shouldn't we? He was alive, a part of our family, had tons of friends and as long as we continue to remember, the circle will never end!

Happy Spring,
Barb