



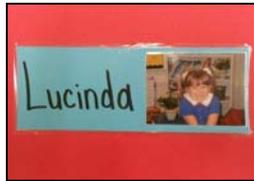
# The Kindergarten Chronicles

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## What's your name?

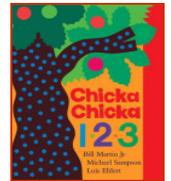
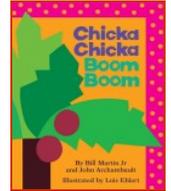
I love to start out the first few weeks of school with some name activities! The students feel comfortable working with their names. Many times, these are the only letters that students this age might recognize! I write out the students' names and take the students' pictures as soon as possible to make name cards like the one shown.



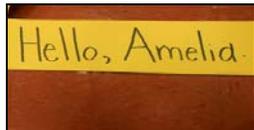
The song "The More We Get Together" by Raffi is a great way to use the name cards on the pocket chart. Model tracking print as you sing this song with your students. Switch out the name cards and sing this song again and again! This is a great way to capitalize on showing the students that they are READERS!



A fun way to introduce the alphabet to the students is through the book Chicka Chicka Boom Boom. The students love to read this book over and over. I begin to talk about the parts of a book such as the front cover, the back cover, the title page, and the author and illustrator. The art project shown uses the students' names to tie together ABC's and names.



The "Hello Book" is a simple way to also begin tracking print with emergent readers. I prepare a book such as the one below to read on the first day of school. This is a book we also read over and over. The students' faces light up when he/she recognizes his/her name on the page. This is also when we can begin looking at the beginning sounds in names, as well as reading through the name to determine names that begin with the same letter.

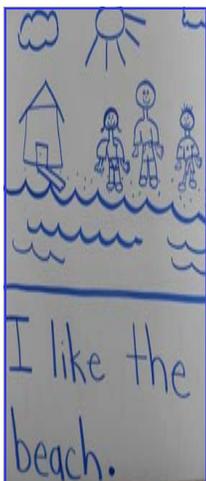


- RF.K.1 - Demonstrate an understanding of the organization and basic features of print.
- RF.K.1b— Recognize that spoken words are represented in written language by specific sequences of letters.
- W.K.2— Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts.

## Journal Writing



Bill Hanlon, Director  
[www.rpdp.net](http://www.rpdp.net)



I begin journal writing on the very first day in kindergarten. I start by discussing that kindergartners may write many different ways. Some of them may be drawing pictures, some may be writing letters, and others may be writing words. I make sure that they all understand that they can write and tell stories through pictures, words, or a combination of both. I then model drawing a picture of something in my life. I chose to teach the word "like" during journal time. I drew a picture and then wrote about something "I like" - the beach! I tell them that they can draw and write about something they like, or they can write about any topic they choose. Through writing, I begin to build a safe classroom environment where we learn a lot about each other! In addition, I recommend to parents to have a journal at home for students to write in. I explain to parents that as their child begins to write more at school, he/she will want to write more at home as well. By providing their child with a journal where he/she can draw pictures and begin to write letters and words every day, we are strengthening the home - school connection!



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