



The Kindergarten Chronicles

Robyn Markovic, RPDP

Beth Jacobsen, Goolsby ES

Welcome Back!

What's in a name?



What's in a name? Children's names are extremely personal to them. Usually, a child's name is the first word he or she recognizes and learns to spell. Using students' names in routines, games, and displays is a motivating way to teach first trimester benchmarks in kindergarten.

You can use the names of the students in your classroom to help students "identify and name upper and lower case letters of the alphabet and identify letter-sound relationships (1.K.3)." Children can use the knowledge they build about their names as a foundation for understanding how letters, sounds, and words work. In this month's edition of *The Kindergarten Chronicles*, you will discover ways for children to interact with their

names and the names of their classmates.

Center Ideas:

Name Cutouts (K) 1.3B, (K) 1.4D

Cut large letters of various fonts from magazines or newspapers or create some with your computer. Have a set of name cards with each child's name at the center. Have each child glue the correct letters onto a piece of paper to spell his name. Allow him to look at his name card, if needed. Have each child decorate his name paper with markers, stickers, or magazine pictures to personalize it. Bind all of the name cards alphabetically into a class book titled *From ___ to ___*. Fill in the first blank with the first name alphabetically in your class and the last blank with the final name in your class. For example, it may

be titled, *From Abby to Xavier*.

Clothesline Names (K) 4.1D, (K) 5.4B, (K) 5.4C

Set up a clothesline. The area under the white board works well. Write uppercase letters on paper squares as your class list requires. Place the letters in a basket near the clothesline. Set out plastic clothespins and name cards with each child's name written in uppercase letters. Have each child find her name card and choose the matching letters from the basket. Have her clip the letters on the line in the correct order to spell her name. Have her remove the letters and place them back in the basket. Later, change the letter squares to include uppercase and lowercase letters so that students can capitalize the first letter of their name. Also include the letters of students' last names for practice too!



Using Magnetic Letters

Below are some ideas for using magnetic letters to help students learn their names.

1.K.3, (K) 5.4B, (K) 5.4C

Sun Names- Go outside with your children on a sunny day and give each child a piece of black construction paper. Have children spell their names on the paper with magnetic letters. Leave the papers outside for several hours. Have students remove the letters and discover

the dark letters of their names left on the paper.

Writing Names- Give each child a sheet of writing paper and a pencil. At the top of his writing paper, set the magnetic letters that spell his name. Have each child use the letters as a guide as he writes his name on the paper.

Magnetic Letter Match- For each child, use magnetic letters to trace her name onto a strip of tagboard. Give each child mag-

netic letters and her name strip. Have each child find the matching magnetic letters and place them on top of the letters on her strip. Once children can match the letters in their own name, encourage them to match the letters in the names of their classmates.

Guess the Name- Place one magnetic letter at a time on the overhead to spell out the name of a child in the class. The first child to guess the name gets to choose the next name to spell out.

Southern Nevada
Regional Professional
Development Program

Volume 5, Issue 1

September 2009

www.rpdp.net



Bill Hanlon, Director

"Name-o"

(sung to the tune of "Bingo")

There is a friend who's in our class,

And [Sara] is her name-ol

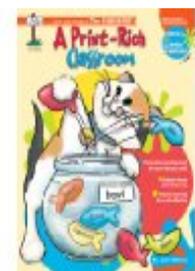
[S-a-r-a], [S-a-r-r-a], [S-a-r-a],

And [S-a-r-a] is her name-ol

"Name-o"

Write each child's name on a separate card. Have a child stand in front of the class and hold her card. Sing the song, chanting the spelling of the child's name.

Sing one child's name every day until everyone has had a turn to hear her name.



Ideas from *A Print-Rich Classroom*
By Jean Warren