



NAME STUDIES

PREK-1ST GRADE

Name studies help children build a sense of community, begin some initial phonics work, and celebrate each child's identity.

How could it go?

1. At your gathering, choose one child's name a day and write it on a sentence strip- but don't show it yet
2. Say the name (Kristi)
3. Clap it (two claps - kris/ti)
4. Listen for how many sounds (5)
5. SHOW THE NAME
6. Count/name the letters, notice any surprises
7. Build it with magnetic letters that are jumbled

Extend this routine by:

- Noticing similarities and differences between names.
- Highlighting digraphs, blends, etc.
- Talking about name origin, morphology, and heritage.
- Supporting children in leading the routine.

Use the names in poems and songs at your gathering- children could make up their own rhymes and songs, too.

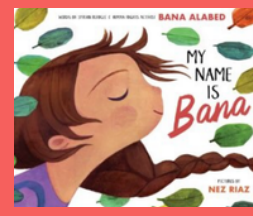
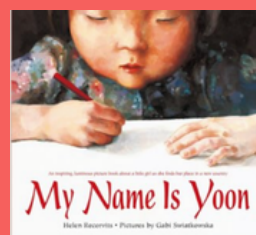
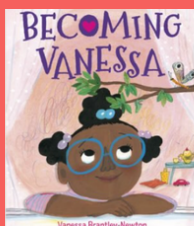
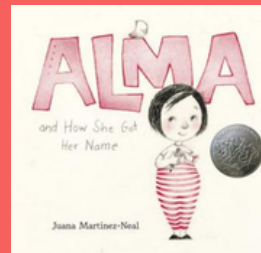
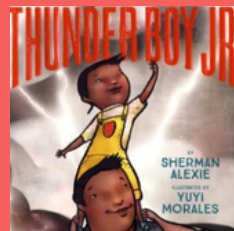
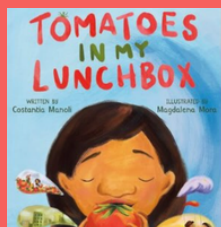
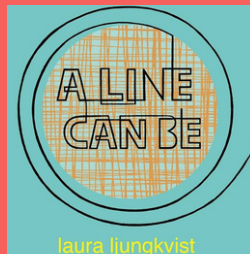
I like _____
_____ is my friend
I like _____ and
Here we go again!

_____ be nimble
_____ be quick
_____ jump
over
the candle stick

Willoughby Wallaby Woo
An elephant sat on you
Willoughby Wallaby —
An elephant sat on__

Clap a friend's name with me,
name with me, name with me,
clap a friend's name with me,
Let's clap _____

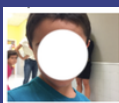
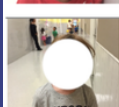
Read Alouds to Support Name Studies



Make a name chart

Put photos of kids next to their names in ABC order.

Partial sample, right. Template [here](#) & on our website.

	Daniel
	Easton
	Ethan
	Eva

Ask open-ended questions about names such as:

- What do you notice?
- What lines do you see here?
- What's the same? What's different?
- What kind of line(s) do you need to build ____?
- What surprises you?
- What do you wonder about?

Design invitations for exploring the names during centers

Message Center- Card Making

Provide a name chart and blank cards or paper. Children can draw pictures and make messages for their friends.



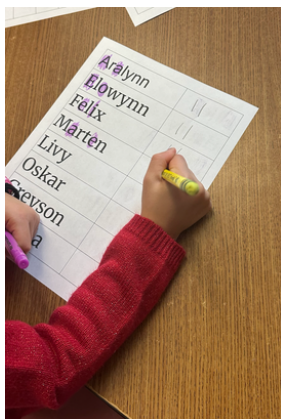
Loose Parts Name Building

Have children's names on cards. Using loose parts they can design different names. Or take this activity outside!



Sorting

Children can sort by number of letters, number of syllables, number of vowels, by starting letter, ...



Name Books

Add photos and names to a book children can read at school and/or have a copy of at home. Template [here](#) & on our website.

