

Using Children's Names to Support Alphabetics and Word/Print Recognition

INTERACTIONS AND STRATEGIES ADAPTED FROM PAGES 142-143 OF THE PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK (VOL. 1).

Class Meeting

- Graph child preferences using names
- Change helper chart names daily to create interest
- Post attendance charts with names

Classroom Projects

- Make a classroom phone directory; invite children to arrange names with pictures of classmates
- Make an alphabet poster using food photographs

Scaffold

- Use photos in combination with names for first few weeks
- Emphasize letter sounds for children who are ready and interested

Writing Center

- Place all names on a key ring for reference
- Use a class list as a sign-in sheet for waiting a turn

Dramatic Play

- Create a school and have an attendance sheet with class names
- Create a post office with mail boxes for each child with a name label
- Create a doctor office with a class names as patient list names

Individualize

- Write names in home languages
- Write names with thick marker on a contrasting background
- Write names using braille
- Sign names

Meal Time

- Use name cards to designate seats
- Write names on placemats

Personal Space

- Label cubbies with names
- Label cots with names

Transitions

- Display child names for families to find at sign-in
- Use name cards to create small groups
- Use letters to dismiss children (e.g., "If your name starts with 'S' you can go to small group.")