

Fun With My Name

(Appropriate for Grades K–3)

Our names are important to all of us. They are especially important to young children and should be used frequently in our interactions with them. Here are some ideas for combining art and your mentee's name.

Goal: To increase self-esteem by encouraging children to celebrate their own names.

Materials: Paper, cardboard, poster board, etc. Crayons, paints, colored pencils, markers, etc. scissors, glue, decorative materials such as glitter, self-adhesive stickers, yarn, etc.

What to do:

- Ask your mentee if he knows how he got his name. Was he named after a relative? Why? Does his name have a particular meaning? (You can also go to the school library to look up the meaning of many names!) What is the ethnic or cultural background of his name? Does he have a nickname? Where and how did it originate?
- Have the child make a design out of his name.

Some ideas:

- Have your mentee write his name in glue and then glitter it.
- Use old crayons to completely color in a piece of paper in bright, thick colors. Color black or some other dark color over the bright colors. Then have your mentee “carve out” his name using a pencil or the edge of blunt scissors and discover the colorful design.
- Have your mentee write his name in crayon and then keep outlining each letter in different colors to create a “rainbow” of his name.
- Make a “collage” name by using cut out letters from old newspapers or magazines to spell your mentee's name.
- Let your imagination run wild. How can you incorporate your mentee's name into a project? A key chain? A sign for his bedroom door?
- Drawing on a tee shirt with washable paints? Carving your names out of Styrofoam?

