



FUNDS OF KNOWLEDGE

KC Ready 4s Multicultural Education Newsletter

The KC Ready 4s Funds of Knowledge Newsletter is a new publication for the Early Childhood Education sector. The name is intentional: to honor the funds of knowledge each person contributes to the teaching and learning environment. We welcome your insights and encourage you to submit questions, future topics for consideration, and things you do to create inclusive and equitable learning spaces for all. Please submit to: mpeake@kcready4s.org

What's My Name?



Consider...

Our names are one of the first indicators of our personal identities, often representing individual, familial, and cultural meanings that are significant for many reasons.

Taking the time to learn the correct pronunciation and spelling of someone's name and consistently using it is a first step to convey sincere and authentic interest in relationship building.

Using a child's name with a joyful and gentle tone can support positive identity development, model positive communication, and create welcoming spaces for all.



Avoid...

Apologizing in advance, "I am going to mess up names!"

Shortening someone's name to syllables or sounds.

Assigning a name that is more familiar for you to use or an abbreviation of the name.

Referring to the person as "hey, you" or a pronoun to avoid saying their name.

Commenting that a name is "so" ethnic, unfamiliar, or difficult to pronounce, spell, or remember.

Communicating in subtly that a name is problematic.



Embrace...

Being vulnerable with names that are new to you.

Asking for assistance to correctly pronounce and spell someone's name. "Saying and spelling your name (and/or your child's name) is important to me. Can you assist me with my learning?"

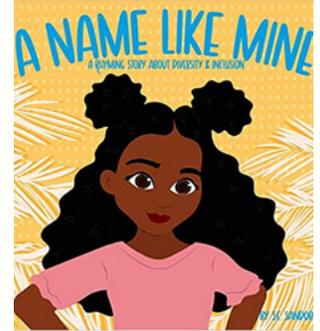
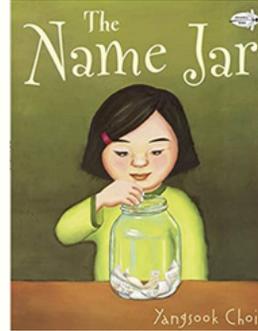
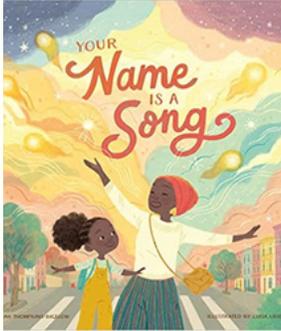
Waiting to be informed of a nickname or shortening of a name that the person prefers you to use.

Gathering information about a name, its meaning, origin, and significance from the person - ONLY when they voluntarily share.



Exploring Resources for Learning

Books celebrating names



Self-Reflection Activity

1. Consider the origins of your name and what you have learned or been told about its origins.
2. Identify any significant meanings and messages you have about your name.
3. What connections do you have about your name and identity?
4. What assumptions have others made about your name or identity?
5. What assumptions do you make about the names and identities of others?
6. If you have ever been part of giving a baby their name, what considerations and discussions occurred when deciding on a name?
7. Engaging others: Talk with a colleague or friend about name pronunciation and spelling, use the above questions for inquiry. Note that this can be a tender topic for some people for a variety of reasons so only engage with those willing and interested in having this conversation.

Educator Scenario: A new family is enrolling and the child has a name that is new to the educator.

Helpful:

Consider: "Although the name may be new to me, it is not new to this family and others who the name is familiar."

Growth framework: "I have an opportunity to learn something new today and connect with this family sincerely and authentically."

Comment: "Learning the correct spelling and pronunciation of names is important to me. Can you please assist me in my learning as I become familiar with your child's name?"

Not helpful:

Consider: "Ugh, another difficult name!"

Fixed framework: "I am so tired of people naming their kids all these weird names, I will just shorten it to something easy."

No comment: Ignoring the opportunity to demonstrate interest in the family. lack of honoring their preferences for their child = setting up an unhelpful situation for all involved.

Video clips about name pronunciation

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Om_XBmF0pA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TXgaQRc5Ew>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7it5CLU2tU>