

# It's the Name of the Game!

## Using Student Names to Develop Alphabetic Knowledge

- Take pictures of your students using a digital camera and print out at least three copies of each. Size and quantity varies according to your purpose and use. Glue onto a sentence strip. Add the student's name and laminate.



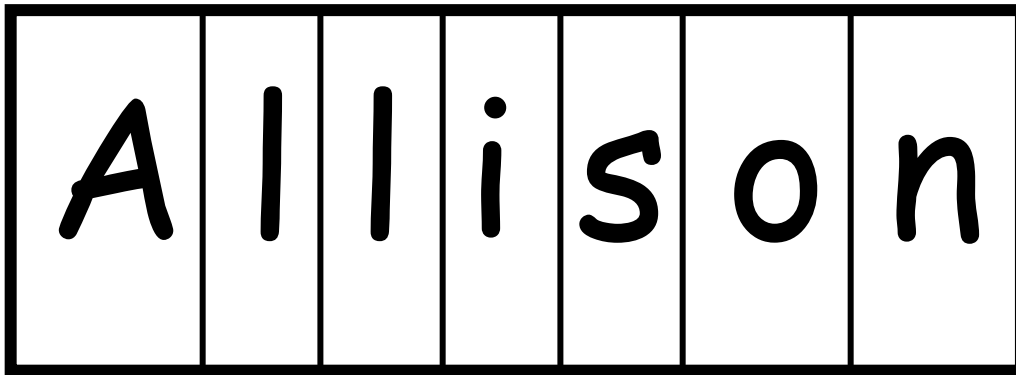
Allison

- Place all of the name cards in a pocket chart in the Names Center. Include name cards without pictures for matching activities. Students may do open or closed sorts with the cards (sort by beginning/ending sound or # of syllables, boys and girls, etc.) Use a pointer to read the name cards or chart. (Some teachers like to use hanging shoe bags instead of a pocket chart.)
- Use a set of name cards for taking attendance or lunch count.
- Use a set for graphing or survey responses.

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- Make a "name" packet for each student's name. Big Lots has colorful, plastic zippered pouches that are perfect! Label each pouch and fill with the following items: name card, magnetic letters for building the name, name puzzle. Place in a large three ring binder for storage.



Name Puzzle

- Place a copy of each student's name card on the classroom word wall.
- Refer to the name cards during interactive and/or shared writing and during journal writing when students are attempting to match letters to sounds. "Whose name starts with that sound or word chunk? Let's look at his/her name."

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- Use a set of name cards for nametags for field trips and on days when you have a guest teacher.
- Use a set for desktop nametags.
- Build and write names with Wikki Stix, clay, letter stamps, white boards, chalkboards, Magna Doodles, sponge painting, etc.
- Read *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten*.
- Refer to the following sites for tons of name games, songs, poems and activities:

<http://www.thevirtualvine.com/Names.html>

<http://mrsballingall1.homestead.com/names.html>

<http://comsewoque.k12.ny.us/~rstewart/k2001/Themes/names/names.htm>