

Names Nook

Materials

Chart with children's names and pictures

Pocket chart

Basket with children's first names written on sentence strips

Magnetic tape

Pictures of each child

Magnetic letters

Paper and crayons

Large sheet of butcher paper

Shoe bag

Names puzzles

Activities

- Children use the shoe bag to sort the names by beginning letter.
- Re-label the shoe bag and have children sort by number of syllables.
- Create other labels to focus on specific letters (begins with *s*, ends with *s*, more than one *s*, no *s*, begins with *sh*, *st*).
- Create picture labels. Sort beginning sound.
- Make names with magnetic letters.
- Label the pocket chart *girls* and *boys*. Place the children's pictures in the correct column. Children match names to pictures.
- Use the names chart to draw and label pictures of friends.
- Use butcher paper as a sign-in chart. Children respond to a yes or no question under an appropriate number or picture.
- Use a set of name cards for taking attendance or lunch count.
- Use name cards for surveys or for graphing responses.
- Make an envelope or pouch for each child. Include a laminated copy of the name to refer to, a name puzzle to reconstruct, magnetic letters or tiles for spelling the name, and a laminated photo of the child. Allow children to use the pouches during center time as a take-it-to-your-seat center.
- Type and print names in assorted fonts and colors for sorting.
- Add middle and/or last names later in the year (kindergarten) as an option.
- Refer to the names chart during shared or demonstrated writing for accessing beginning and ending sound spellings.