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"My Name is Alejandro!" The Importance of Children's Names to Cultural Identity and Early Literacy Development

AnnMarie Alberton Gunn
gunn@mail.usf.edu

Alejandro E. Brice
aebrice@mail.usf.edu

Barbara J. Peterson

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Presentation Title:

*My Name is Alejandro! The Importance of Children’s Names to Cultural Identity and Early Literacy Development*

**Presenters:**

Dr. AnnMarie Alberton Gunn, Asst. Professor, USFSP  
gunn@usfsp.edu

Dr. Alejandro Brice, Professor, USFSP  
aebrice@usfsp.edu

Barbara Peterson, Doctoral Candidate, USF – Tampa  
bpeterso@mail.usf.edu

**LIST OF CHILDREN’S LITERATURE THAT FEATURE NAMES**

* Titles with asterisks are multicultural books.

~ Titles marked with a tilde (~) feature names in a manner that reinforces early literacy skills: name awareness, name writing, rhyming, sound awareness, alliteration, letter/sound association and ABC concepts, or other phonological awareness skills. Cultural identity may or may not be an additional focus of these texts.

Other titles relate to the idea of name, individual identity, petnames/nicknames, name origins etc.

**Children’s Literature that Feature Names and Identity**


**Other Name-Based Children’s Literature for Teaching Early Literacy Skills**


**PRACTITIONER ARTICLES AND BOOKS**


**SCHOLARLY REFERENCES**


Clark, E., H. (2007). *"I'm a product of everything I've been through": A narrative study of the cultural Identity construction of Bosnian Muslim female refugee students*. Dissertation, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL.


INTERNET RESOURCES

Names and Cultural/Personal Identity Lesson Ideas

READWRITETHINK website – *Acrostic Poems: All About Me and My Favorite Things*


Scholastic Website – *What’s in a Name?* Back to School Literacy Unit (A. Zimmerman). This webpage offers lesson plan ideas for researching name origins, thematic read-alouds of books that feature children’s names, and creating of individual students’ name books. http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/post/what%E2%80%99s-name-back-school-literacy-unit

What’s In My Name? Lesson plan
http://schooltalkdev.palmbeach.k12.fl.us/groups/digitalhub/wiki/1cd1d/

Scholastic Website - *Explore Your Culture Through Storytelling*. In this lesson, students explore their cultural backgrounds and create a poetry book based on the George Ella Lyons poem, “Where I’m From” http://www.scholastic.com/browse/lessonplan.jsp?id=788

Critical Multicultural Awareness - Multicultural Pavilion website. This webpage describes a language arts activity where students write their naming stories and share as a group. The site provides some guidelines and suggestions for sharing. http://www.edchange.org/multicultural/activities/name.html


*The Name Jar* Lesson plan ideas


http://pbskids.org/lions//parentsteachers/pdf/RABC2-TheNameJar.pdf

Math-based lesson ideas using *The Name Jar* and other name-based literature.

Sites for researching the meaning behind names:

http://www.behindthename.com/

Early Literacy Lesson Plans and Activities with Children’s Names

READWRITETHINK Website - *What’s in a name? Concepts of letters and words.*
http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/what-name-teaching-concepts-37.html

READWRITETHINK Website - *Name Talk: Exploring Letter-Sound Knowledge in the Primary Classroom*
READWRITETHINK Website – *Using Songwriting to Build Awareness of Beginning Letter Sounds*
http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/using-songwriting-build-awareness-274.html

READWRITETHINK Website - *Playing Name Bingo with Chrysanthemum*

Name Bingo Lesson Plan http://www.uen.org/Lessonplan/preview.cgi?LPid=21398


Create class books that feature children’s names:
http://www.pre-kpages.com/classbooks/
http://www.kinderbykim.com/september.htm

Numerous Name-based Emergent Literacy activities on these links:
http://www.hubbardscupboard.org/abcs_and_names.html
http://fun-a-day.com/names-in-preschool/
http://handsonaswegrow.com/35-name-activities-for-preschoolers/
http://www.makinglearningfun.com/theme_pages/NameRecognitionTheme.htm
http://www.hummingbirded.com/name.htm
http://handsonaswegrow.com/35-name-activities-for-preschoolers/
http://rainbowswithinreach.blogspot.ca/2012/08/helper-charts-name-games.html
http://www.kidscount1234.com/name.html
http://readwithmeabc.blogspot.com/2013/08/b2s-name-activities.html
http://www.kinderkorner.com/names.html
http://www.pre-kpages.com/teaching-names-in-preschool/
http://www.jmeacham.com/name.game.htm  Investigate the individual links on this website
http://primarypointe.blogspot.com/2012/07/nine-nifty-name-activities.html Another good website resource -- a few technology ideas like using the Graphic Organizer tool in Comic life to upload a picture, name, and other things related to a child.

www.wordle.com and www.tagxedo.com  Use these word cloud generators using Children’s All About Me passages or Name poetry: http://www.makeandtakes.com/all-about-me-wordle-for-kids

See your name in Braille translator tool http://www.braillebug.org/thenamegame.asp

Name Games, Songs, and Poems

Raffi Song: *Like Me and You*. This song features children’s names and the places around the world where they come from; message of appreciation of diversity and commonality. This song is on the Raffi Concert album. Link to lyrics: http://lyrics.wikia.com/Raffi:Like_Me_And_You

Early Childhood circle time songs that build language and feature children’s names

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEWkjVYhE6A

Lots of songs and poems on these websites:

http://www.kinderkorner.com/names.html
http://www.state.lib.la.us/empowerlibrary/songs%20about%20names.pdf
http://voices.yahoo.com/preschool-songs-spelling-names-2084264.html

*Who Took the Cookie from the Cookie Jar?* This book can be sung as a song/chant with different children’s names substituted into the song. http://supersimplelearning.com/songs/original-series/two/who-took-the-cookie/

This site has printable cookie templates, but the cookies are all the same. Consider having children design their own cookies and put them in a cookie jar. Children can design people-shaped gingerbread cookies with their own face and clothing. Cookies can also have photos of children’s faces and names. http://mrsgilchristsclass.blogspot.com/2011/08/who-stole-cookie-from-cookie-jar.html