

Building Blocks - "Getting to Know You" extended

My kindergarten students loved the "Getting to Know You" Activity in Building Blocks™ so much that I had to come up with new activities for more rounds of it. Each student gets to have his/her day. I have 20 students so it takes 20 days to complete each round.

I choose one helper a day and put his/her name card in a small pocket chart that I use in our large group area. That student does all the "jobs" in the classroom that I need help with and gets to be spotlighted for the Name Activity.

Name Activity Round 1

- The helper comes forward and claps beats in name.
- He counts the letters in his name.
- The class echo spells the letters in his name as the helper leads them in a name cheer. (cheer with pom-poms)
- I write his name on a different sentence strip, cut it apart, and the helper puts it back together in the small pocket chart.
- We share the helper's "All About Me Bag" with the class (see activity in Fun Stuff on this website)
- I write the helper's name on the board for all to copy, and everyone draws a picture of the helper.
- I hang the helper's name card and picture on the Name Board.
- I combine all other pictures in a book for the helper to take home.

Name Activity Round 2

- The helper comes forward and claps beats in name.
- He counts the letters in his name.
- The class echo spells the letters in his name as the helper leads them in a name cheer. (cheer with microphone)
- I ask the helper questions to complete an Interview Sheet.
My name is _____.
I am _____ years old.
My favorite color is _____.
Etc.
- I write the helper's name on the board for all to copy and everyone chooses something from the interview to draw about the helper.
- I combine all the pictures in a book for the helper.
- I take a picture of each student doing the name cheer and make a class book of all interview sheets with helper's picture attached when all are done.

Name Activity Round 3

- The helper comes forward and claps beats in name.
- The helper places his name in the appropriate spot on the graph in a large pocket chart on the chart stand. (Labeled "How many syllables?" with numbered columns)
- The class echo spells the letters in his name as the helper leads them in a name cheer. (cheer with pom-poms or microphone)
- I write the helper's name on the board as a model for the class.
- All of the students cut apart a "name puzzle" and rebuild the helper's name on another sheet of paper. (The "name puzzle" is a table with the helper's name scrambled up with other letters. Below is a minimized table with "Marty" as the helper's name. I make a sheet that has four tables on it and then copy it. Each child gets one of the four tables.)
- Combine all name puzzles for helper

M	j	a
n	L	r
y	t	d

Name Activity Round 4

- The helper comes forward and counts the letters in his name.
- The helper places his name in the appropriate spot on the graph in a large pocket chart on the chart stand. (Labeled "How many letters?" with numbered columns)
- With the student's help, make up a tongue twister using the beginning letter of helper's name.
- All of the students are invited to write the tongue twister on lined and/or to illustrate it. (Ex: Mary makes messy muffins.) Not all students are ready to write or copy at this stage. So, it's not a requirement. Many enjoy it, though.
- I take a picture of the student with a digital camera and use a graphics program (mine is *Printmaster*) to make a page for the class book.

Name Activity Round 5

- The helper comes forward and finds the place in the dictionary that has the same beginning letter as his name.
- The student chooses a word that begins the same as his name. (I may help pick a few words that I think are "kinder-friendly".) I read the meaning.
- We make up a sentence using the chosen word for a handwriting activity.
- All of the students write and/or illustrate the sentence.

I will be starting Environmental Print activities instead of Name Activities when this round is over.