

I Know the Letters In My Name!

Learning to identify his own name as a whole word helps your child:

- Recognize some letters in the alphabet
- Understand that letters put together make a word



Ideas to try with your child:

- Write the first letter of your child's name on a recycled plastic milk cap or cut out paper circles. Repeat this for all letters in his name. Ask child to put the caps in order to spell his name, like the picture above.
- Use these caps to play a game of scavenger hunt. Hide the caps and challenge him to find them. When all caps are found, put them in order to spell his name.
- Spread a layer of sugar, flour or salt on a cookie sheet. Using finger, draw letters of his name saying each letter name aloud as you go. Invite him to trace over letters.

If your child is struggling:

- If child is not ready to learn his whole name yet, focus only on the first letter of his name. Write that letter on a piece of paper and tape the paper where child will see it such as on the wall near where he plays. Say: "Look, there is {S}. It looks like a snake. Your name {Sam} starts with {S}."

Going further:

- Play dough is a fun way to practice letters in names. Try using alphabet cookie cutters to cut out letters in his name. You can also form play dough into shapes of each letter. Look for several playdough recipes: <http://fun.familyeducation.com/sculpting/recipes/37040.html?page=1>



The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children's best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children Ages 3-4 years** that parents can help improve at home.

Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: "Identify own name as a whole word." *Communicating (Reading)*, Ages-3-4 years, pg. 59