



## Family Activities

### Readiness Skill: Knows own full name

The first word that a child is likely to learn or learn to spell is their own. It is typically the most vital word in their vocabulary. Many children go by their middle name or nickname. Although, these are also important to children, being able to recognize their own full name is important as they transition to school.

### Name Origins

- Many children may know their name but not know where their name came from. Take time out to discuss the special meaning of your child's name and how his or her name was chosen – **“Your first name is Sarah and you are named after your great grandmother whose name was Sarah. Your middle name is Rose. The rose is a beautiful flower and when I think of how beautiful and special you are, I think of a rose.”** Another example – **“Your name is Steven, and when I was thinking of baby names I thought of the name Steven because it's my favorite name and I wanted to give it to my favorite person, and that is you.”**



### Name Labels



When labeling your child's personal belongings, use his or her first, middle, and last name and be sure to reinforce all three names when working with your child.

### Time for Dinner

When calling on your child for various reasons, be sure to include their first, middle, and last name – **“Jimmy Ray Smith, it's time to come in for dinner!”** or **“Lisa Marie Jones, let's pick up the toys and put them away in your toy box.”** This may seem impersonal at first but with practice your child will learn their full name.

