

## Family Activities



### School Readiness Skill: Reads and writes own name

The first word that children are likely to learn to spell is their name. Being able to read and write their name (especially their first name) is important as children make the transition to kindergarten. Children should have many opportunities to use various materials to practice writing before they are asked to use paper and pencil to write their name. Below, are some fun hands on experiences that will get your child motivated to write his or her name.

#### Name Puzzle



Write your child's first name on an index card leaving enough space between each letter for cutting. Use scissors to cut the letters into puzzle pieces. Place the pieces in an envelope or baggie labeled with your child's name and invite your child to piece the puzzle pieces together correctly to spell their name. Be sure to assist your child at first and praise them with each attempt to complete the name puzzle. Once your child has mastered their first name you may create name puzzles for their last name.

#### Letter Beans

For this activity you will need to write alphabet letters on uncooked white beans using a permanent marker. Be sure to repeat each letter several times especially the vowels a,e,i,o, and u. Write your child's name on a piece of paper as a model and provide him or her with a place mat and a supply of the bean letters you have made. Your child may use the model you have provided to practice forming their name with the letter beans.



#### Name Dots



Using a sheet of paper and a marker, use dots to form each of the letters of your child's name and have your child use crayons, paints, or markers to connect the dots that form those letters.

## Dough Name



Provide your child with a mat or large sheet of paper with his or her name written on it in large letters. Help your child use play-dough or modeling clay to form the letters of his or her name.

## Shaving Cream Name

Place a dab of shaving cream on a flat surface such as a table and provide your child with a sheet of paper with his or her name written on it as a model. Your child can practice writing their name using their fingers in the cream that has been smeared on the table. Be sure to be aware of your child's sensitivity to shaving cream before beginning and supervise them at all times.

