



How did I get My Name?

Age level - Kindergarten

Objective: Children will learn....

How to investigate where their names come from?

Create a story?

Their family background.

Specific Learning Focus: Language and Literacy

Why is this activity Anti Bias: This activity is anti bias because in the author's note for this book, Juana Martinez-Neal shares the history of her name and invites readers to share the story behind their own names. Our names help us shape who we are, and we identify with those names. Names tell a story with either the meaning or where that name came from and why it was chosen.

Materials:

- Alma and How She Got Her Name by Juana Martinez-Neal
- Note Cards
- Colors
- Construction Paper
- Family Pictures

Preparation:

Have a cut out of a tree and note cards for child(ren) to write down their names, and in the back of the note cards find what their name means. Include where it came from, and why they were named that name. Split this activity into two so child(ren) have the time to do research using technology.



Procedure:

Introduce the book Alma and how she got her name. The book has names that are Spanish origin. After reading the book begin a discussion and ask - how they came to be named, how they chose a nickname, or another story about their names. The second part of this activity is to have the child(ren) go interview family members to find out details about how and why they were given their names or acquired nicknames. Have child(ren) share their name stories with each other to further explore how naming is part of larger cultural traditions and how name-giving practices vary from culture to culture.

Reference: Juana Martinez-Neal; Candlewick Press, Somerville, Massachusetts : Candlewick Press, 2018. ©2018