

About the Developmental Studies Center

Our Mission

Developmental Studies Center (DSC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to children's academic, ethical, and social development. Since 1980, DSC has developed school-based and after-school programs that help children develop capacities to think deeply and critically so they will continue learning throughout their lives and strengthen their commitment to such values as kindness, helpfulness, personal responsibility, and respect for others.

DSC's Programs Develop Skills and Community

Programs for use in classrooms

Caring School Community™ • Grades K–6

The Caring School Community (CSC) program is a nationally recognized, research-based program that builds community—in the classroom, across grades, schoolwide, and with families.

Making Meaning® • Grades K–8

The Making Meaning program is a reading comprehension curriculum that teaches comprehension strategies through read-alouds, collaborative structures, and reflective partner work.

SIPPS® (Systematic Instruction in Phoneme Awareness, Phonics, and Sight Words) • Grades K–12

The SIPPS program teaches decoding systematically. It is designed specifically for intervention and covers single-syllable decoding, short vowels, simple consonants, complex vowels, consonant digraphs, polysyllabic strategies, and high-frequency sight words.

Being a Writer™ • Grades K–5

The Being a Writer program is a yearlong writing curriculum—the first program of its kind to bring together the latest research in teaching writing with support for students' social and ethical development. (Available August 2007)

Programs for out-of-school time

AfterSchool KidzLit® • Grades K–8

The AfterSchool KidzLit program is a literacy enrichment program consisting of terrific read-aloud books, and discussions and activities that help kids make connections between the stories, their own lives, and the world.

AfterSchool KidzMath™ • Grades K–6

The AfterSchool KidzMath program provides academic enrichment using cooperative math games and literature-based activities. Kids deepen their understanding and practice important math skills—and have fun.

Science Explorer • Grades K–6

Science Explorer is an inquiry-based, interactive program of experiments using ordinary materials that inspire students to explore scientific principles.

Math Explorer • Grades 6–8

Math Explorer invites children to fly planes, launch rockets, learn card tricks, and make cool stuff to take home—all while practicing the important math skills middle-school students need extra help with.

For more information, please visit www.devstu.org or contact us by phone at 800.666.7270.



**DEVELOPMENTAL
STUDIES CENTER™**

Nonprofit. Research Based. Mission Driven. Since 1980.

The Story of My Name

Before Sending Home the Activity

After a brief discussion of what names mean—why we have them, what purpose they serve, and so on—describe the activity and model it by telling the story of how you were named. The following books tie in nicely with this activity:

- *But Names Will Never Hurt Me*, by Bernard Waber, in which Alison Wonderland learns how her parents came to choose her name; and
- *The Other Emily*, by Gibbs Davis, in which Emily discovers that she is still special, even though another girl in her class has the same name.
- *No volvaís a llamarme “conejito mío,”* by Grégoire Solotareff, tells the story of Johnny Carrot, who becomes very upset when everyone calls him “my dear little rabbit” instead of using his real name.
- *Tianguis de nombres*, by Gilberto Rendón Ortiz, tells the story of an enterprising critter who creates a booming business selling new and elegant names to her insect friends, until at last they realize the true value of their own names.

Follow-Up

After volunteers have told the class the stories of their names, make a bulletin board display with their drawings.



The Story of My Name

*Dear Family Member or
Family Friend,*

Does your child know the story of how he or she was named? In class we will be making a bulletin board showing the stories of our names.

For this activity, tell everything you can remember about how you chose your child's name. The Conversation Starters might help you remember some details. If your child already knows this story, let him or her tell it to you. Then have your child draw a picture about this story. We will share some of these stories, and our drawings, in class.

Thanks for your time, and have fun!

Conversation Starters

If it's helpful, use these ideas to get you started in telling the story.

- 1** Tell everything you can remember about choosing your child's name, including a middle name.
 - Was it easy to choose a name?
 - How long did it take?
 - Who gave suggestions?
 - Did you name your child after a relative? A friend? An admired person or hero?
 - What would you have named your child if he had been a girl/she had been a boy?
- 2** Tell your child what you know about how you were named.
- 3** Tell your child how you felt about your own first name when you were her or his age. Then have your child draw a picture about the story of his or her name on the back of this page.

HOMESIDE ACTIVITY



In the space below, have your child draw a picture about the story of his or her name.
If you'd like, help your child write a caption for the picture.

Comments

After you have completed this activity, each of you please sign your name and the date below. If you have any comments, please write them in the space provided.

Signatures

Date

Please have your child return this activity to school. Thank you.

THE STORY OF MY NAME



La historia de mi nombre

*Estimados padres,
familiares o amigos:*

¿Conoce su hijo o su hija la historia de cómo le pusieron el nombre? En la clase, estaremos preparando una exhibición en la pared que muestre las historias de nuestros nombres.

Para esta Actividad Familiar, cuénteles a su hijo o a su hija todo lo que usted recuerde de cómo le pusieron su nombre. Las preguntas a continuación pueden ayudarle a recordar algunos de los detalles. Si su hijo o su hija ya conoce esta historia, permita que se la cuente a usted. Luego invítele a hacer un dibujo sobre la historia. Más tarde compartiremos algunas de estas historias en la clase.

Gracias por su atención y ¡diviértanse!

Preguntas para iniciar el diálogo

Si gusta, puede utilizar estas ideas para iniciar su relato.

- 1** Cuénteles a su hijo o a su hija todo lo que pueda recordar sobre cómo eligió su nombre.
¿Fue fácil escoger un nombre?
¿Cuánto tiempo le tomó?
¿Quiénes le dieron sugerencias?
¿Le dio a su hijo o a su hija el nombre de un pariente? ¿De algún amigo o amiga?
¿De alguien a quien usted admira?
¿Qué nombre le hubiera puesto a su hijo si hubiera sido una niña? ¿A su hija si hubiera sido un niño?
- 2** Cuénteles a su hijo o a su hija todo lo que usted sabe acerca de cómo le dieron a Ud. su nombre.
- 3** Cuénteles a su hijo o a su hija cómo Ud. se sentía con respecto a su propio nombre cuando era menor.

ACTIVIDAD FAMILIAR



Invite a su hijo o a su hija a hacer un dibujo sobre la historia de su nombre. Si gusta, puede ayudarlo a escribir algo sobre su dibujo.

Comentarios

Después que hayan completado esta actividad, haga el favor cada uno de firmar y de escribir la fecha en el lugar indicado. Si Ud. quisiera hacer cualquier comentario, por favor escríbalo aquí.

Firmas

Fecha

Favor de enviar esta actividad de vuelta a la escuela con su hijo o con su hija. Muchísimas gracias.

LA HISTORIA DE MI NOMBRE