

# Parent Guide



@twinklparents

We are excited to share this content with you. If you are interested in finding more resources made especially for Parents, then check out these links to different areas of the **Twinkl Parents** hub.

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## What is this resource and how do I use it?

Designed to help you support your child in learning to recognise their name, this resource has lots of ideas to help you engage your child in fun and educational activities, without making them 'sit down and learn'. Repetition is often the key to learning for young children, so you may find yourself playing some of the games over and over again!

## What is the focus of this resource?

Name Recognition

Letter Recognition

Games and Activities

Playful Learning

## Further Ideas and Suggestions

Your child may enjoy learning to recognise names of people who are special to them too and it may spark discussion about uniqueness and people around the world. Have a look in our **Exploring and Understanding the World** area for resources to develop their interest in cultures and people who help us.

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# Learning to Recognise My Name

## Activity Ideas

Your baby may start to recognise and respond to their name being said from around four to six months old. Learning to say their name can take them until one to two years of age. They may then start to be able to recognise their name written down between two and three years old, although all children develop at different rates. Here are some ideas for ways you can encourage your toddler or preschooler to learn what their name looks like.

### Say It!

You will probably already do this but it can help to say your child's name - a lot! It is easy to slip into pet names or nicknames, which is fine, but make sure they are hearing their real name too. If your child has a given name but you use a preferred name (e.g. their name is William but they are known as Billy), you may want to think about the name you want them to recognise, spell and write first, or will you try a bit of both? If they are at nursery, the nursery may also want to know this so they are not giving conflicting lessons!

For two to three year olds, you could play the 'What's your name?' game. Begin to teach them their full name and tell them your full name too, as well as any siblings' names. Children often find it fascinating to hear that 'mummy' or 'daddy' isn't your real name! It is good for them to rehearse saying their full names too, especially if they are known by another name.

Finally, sing it too! Children often love to hear their name in songs, so if you can change a song they like to include their name, or look for songs that already encourage it, they will likely lap it up and want to join in.

### Write, Write, Write!

You, not your child. Your child will probably become interested in their name and the names of people who are important to them at some point between one and three years old. Simply writing the names out for them can be a great way to get them interested in recognising their name. They usually feel quite proud of their name and may ask you to write it over and over again! You don't just need to stick to pen and paper either - type it, paint it, use chalks etc.



# Learning to Recognise My Name

## Activity Ideas

### Make Use of What You've Got

Named gifts are often popular when you have a new baby and you might have displayed these around the house. Use them! Point out your child's name to them or ask them to find their name. You might even have some things that you can let your child play with, supervised of course. Talk about the initial sound to help them start to differentiate it from other names. You can then point this letter out to them in other places if you like, but make sure they understand that it won't always be saying their name! For example, Tariq might see a 'T' at a supermarket and say, 'That's my name!'. Praise him for recognising the letter and gently remind him that his name has some more letters in it that are different to the sign - 'Yes, your name has a T for Tariq, like that one, then you've got an a.'



### Tap Into Their Interests

Does your child love vehicles? Use these [Printable Road Pieces](#), specially printed road tape or just masking tape to create roads shaped like the letters of your little one's name. You could make your name too and play along, maybe playfully enforcing rules like cars need to stay on their own letters.

If your child enjoys board games or similar, make a simple bingo game by dividing a piece of paper into four or six sections, writing their name and the names of other people special to them in the boxes. Do this on a couple of pieces of paper for the bingo boards, trying to use slightly different variations (e.g. Mummy, Chris, Jo and Sam on one board and Sam, Mummy, Gran and Pop on another). Then, write the names of all the people you've chosen on a smaller set of cards. Pull them out one at a time, say the name and encourage your child to see if they have that name on their board. If they do, pop a counter (or anything you want to use for a counter) on top of it. The first to cover all the names is the winner!





# Learning to Recognise My Name

## Activity Ideas

### Get Creative

Again, you could start by writing your child's name on a piece of paper. It's often best to make it quite large for a craft activity! Then, give them pom-poms, squares of coloured paper, stickers, felt shapes, cotton balls - whatever you have that they can stick onto the letters in their name. Once dry, display proudly, perhaps on their bedroom door. [This It's My Name Art Activity](#) is a similar idea showing how you can take this activity into the garden or even out and about.



### Hide and Seek

Hide magnetic letters in coloured rice and encourage your child to find the initial sound in their name (or all the letters if they are becoming more confident!). They might then match the letters to their name on a piece of paper.

Write your child's name on a large sheet of paper (the back of wrapping paper can work well) as well as the names of people who are important to them. Write them a number of times and then ask your child to draw a circle around their name when they find it.

Play a matching pairs game with names on small cards, turning them over two at a time to try and find a match.



Sensory activities can engage children in their play and learning, but supervising adults should check for allergens and assess any potential risks (such as the risk of choking from small objects) before the activity, and only proceed if it is safe to do so. We cannot be held responsible for the health and safety of those participating and cannot accept any liability. By using this resource, you acknowledge that it is the responsibility of supervising adults to ensure the safety of children in their care.

Outdoor areas provide great opportunities for play and learning, but always check for any environmental risks before taking part in outdoor activities, and only proceed if it is safe to do so. Ensure children always wash their hands after being outside. Please be respectful of nature and take care of animals and plants. We will not be held responsible for the health and safety of those participating in activities, and cannot accept any liability. By organising or participating in any activity described, you acknowledge that it is the responsibility of supervising adults to ensure the safety of children in their care.