

Computer Sign-Up

Primary Objectives

19a. Writes name

Why It's Important

Children learn to write the letters in their names early in their literacy development. Often, the beginning letter in a child's name becomes his or her letter. Asking your child to write his name in a meaningful context will help him see himself as a writer. It will also teach him an important purpose of written language: to help people remember and keep track of things.

Materials

Your child's name written on an index card or other heavy paper; pencils; sign-up sheet to use the computer or participate in some other type of activity that requires taking turns

What You Do

1. Tell your child and his playmates or family members that in order to get a turn using the computer or a popular toy, they each need to write their names on a sign-up sheet.
2. Show your child the sign-up sheet and where it will be kept. Model signing up by writing your own name on the sheet.
3. Invite your child to sign up to use the computer or toy. Ask if he would like to sign up on his own or if he would like your help.
4. If he wants help, show him his name card and support him in his attempt at writing.
5. Pay close attention as your child attempts to write his name on the sign-up sheet. Accept and acknowledge any attempt at writing. *I see you wrote A, the first letter in your name. Look, you wrote N! You wrote your name!*
6. Give your child meaningful opportunities to practice writing his name each day, such as writing his name on his lunch bag or signing a birthday card for a friend. If he can write his first name, suggest that he try writing his last name, too.