

Key Principles to Optimize the "Name Ticket Strategy"



- **Have high expectations for "Parents as Partners."** Send 10 blank Name Tickets home along with the child's name-writing model, complete with arrows. Ask for nightly practice until the child's name writing is fluent.
- **Have a consistent daily name-writing ritual** so the children (and their parents) know exactly what is expected and when they will practice. (Name Ticket often works best as a part of "settling in" or before "choice time.")
- **Remind each child to name and fingerspell each letter** as they bring their Name Tickets to the adult for review. Connect the beginning sound of each name with the key phonics symbol from the *ABC Phonics: Sing, Sign, and Read!* "K/'K'/Kangaroo" and "K/'K'/Kaitlyn".
- **Expect daily progress.** Help children verbalize goals.
- Practice the focus letter in isolation and then on another Name Ticket. **"What is your focus letter? What helps you remember that letter?"**
- If the child repeats the same letter incorrectly, fold up the Name Ticket and calmly say, "Oh, let's do that again. You can remember...."
- **Ask the child to name and point to each letter in his name** and then fingerspell for deep multisensory memory connections.
- **Praise the child for focusing, working hard, and practicing thoughtfully** (not how smart they are!).
- **Be positive and optimistic.** When you fold up a child's card and ask him/her to do it again, say for example, "I know you can remember to start at the top this time!" (Always hold the view of a very capable child.)
- **Teach for self-regulation and set high standards:** the progress will amaze you!
- **For the more experienced writers, be ready to add the challenge** of also writing a "heart word" phrase or a sentence with accurate handwriting on the other side of the Name Ticket as soon as they have mastered their names. Begin practice on "a b c d", "love", "I love", "I love you", and the other pink "heart word" sentences. **Expect the child to leave spaces between words.**
- Children love the challenge of writing their **whole name in December or January.**