

# Actively Engage Every Child in This Phonics Lesson

## "Helper of the Day" Song and Name Cheer



Each day a new child gets to be the "Helper of the Day," determined by the names which are alphabetized and kept on a ring. The morning "coming together" ritual begins with the whole class singing the *Helper of the Day* song. Then the Helper

of the Day enthusiastically leads the class in his or her name call/response signing cheer. Phonics lessons grow more complex with each new round of name cheers.



Initial phonological awareness and phonics lessons are interwoven with the study of each child's name. Katie Nelson can be heard guiding the children:

- *Let's say the name.*
- *Stretch out the name l-o-n-g.*
- *What's the first sound in his name?*
- *What's the last sound?*
- *What are the vowels?*
- *Clap the name.*
- *How many syllables do you hear?*
- *What words do you notice in his name?*

Multisensory ABC and Phonics skills are expanded to personally connect with each child's names. Motivation and engagement are high.

From *Phonics for Fluency and Writing Proficiency (Workshop Resource Book)* with Nellie Edge and Diane Bonica, 2017.

### Helper of the Day Song

♪ To the tune of *Skip to My Lou* ♪  
(Sung by the entire class.)

Lucas is the helper of the day  
Lucas is the helper of the day  
Lucas is the helper of the day  
Let's give him a big "hooray!"

### The Name Fingerspelling Cheer

(Led by the "helper of the day.")

Give me an "L"! (class) "L"!  
Give me a "U"! (class) "U"!  
Give me a "C"! (class) "C"!  
Give me an "A"! (class) "A"!  
Give me an "S"! (class) "S"!  
What's it spell? (class) LUCAS!