



Self-Management

ABOUT CENTER FOR THE COLLABORATIVE CLASSROOM

The Caring School Community (CSC) program is a nationally recognized, research-based program for grades K–6 that builds classroom and schoolwide community while developing students' social and emotional (SEL) skills and competencies.

Teambuilder, Clapping Names

By: The Caring School Community

Clapping Names

ABOUT TEAMBUILDERS

Beginning-of-the-year Teambuilder activities give the students a chance to learn one another's names and to get to know something about one another. Overall, Teambuilders:

- Help students begin to appreciate one another
- Bring students together around a common purpose
- Help students develop a sense of belonging and acceptance

Do Teambuilder activities early in the year, as well as periodically throughout the year, such as when students switch to new groups, when new students enter the class, and after school vacations.

Over the next five weeks, the students will participate in Teambuilders to get to know one another. These include: "Clapping Names" and "Rhythm Name Game," in which the students use chants to learn one another's names; "Favorite Things," in which partners ask one another questions about their favorite things; "Things You Do," in which the students talk to several different partners about things they like to do; "Your Home," in which the students talk to several different partners about their families and homes; and "Tea Party," in which pairs talk about themselves with other pairs.

Lesson Purpose

Students:

- Learn one another's names
- Listen to one another
- Speak clearly

Materials

- Space for the class to sit in a circle

The Lesson

1 INTRODUCE GATHERING IN A CIRCLE

Explain that over the next several weeks, the students will participate in several Teambuilder activities to get to know one another better. These activities will help them learn one another's names and begin to build a classroom community in which everyone feels safe and comfortable. Explain that today the students will sit in a circle and learn one another's names.

Explain and model how you would like the students to get into a circle. (For example, "When I point to your table, you will quietly get up, walk to the rug, and sit on your bottom around the edge of the rug.")

Have the students move to the circle. If necessary, have them return to their desks and practice the procedure again until they are able to move in an orderly way.



Model how you want the students to move to the circle before having them move.

2 PLAY CLAPPING NAMES

Explain that today the students will play a game to help them learn one another's names. Explain that in this game one person in the circle will say her name, and then the whole class will say the name and clap out the syllables together. Model with your own name, saying clearly, "My name is ____." Repeat your name, clapping once for each syllable. Repeat your name again and have the class chant and clap. Remind the students to listen when other people are talking and to speak loudly and clearly when it is their turn so that everyone can hear. Start the game and go around the circle.

Student: "My name is Jeremiah."

Class: "Jer — e — mi — ah!"



Make the activity more challenging by including first and last names. To add variety to the activity, walk behind the students while they are seated in the circle and randomly tap individual students to say their name. Have the group clap and respond in unison. Continue to tap individual students until every student has had a turn.

3 REFLECT ON THE ACTIVITY

Remind the students that learning one another's names will help to build their community. Help the students think about how they listened during the activity. Offer your own observations. (For example, "I noticed that most people listened when people were sharing their names. Listening to one another makes everyone feel like they are a special part of our community.")

Let the students know that they will have many chances to share in the circle this year. Explain and model how you would like them to move from the circle. Adjourn the activity and have the students return to their seats. If necessary, have them practice the procedure until they are able to move in an orderly way.