



EduTrend Contents

P4C · LANGUAGE AND MEANING · PRIMARY

What's in a Name?

Naming a class teddy starts an enquiry into words and names

Ages 5–7

Level: Foundation

30 minutes

Whole class circle · up
to 30

Activity 01

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 pupil worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 01 · AT A GLANCE

What's in a Name?

The facilitator brings a new class teddy with no name. Children suggest names and explain why each fits. Then the facilitator asks: if we called the teddy “Rock”, would it become hard? If we called a chair a “table”, would it change? Children create questions and vote on one, such as “Does a name change what something is?”

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- suggest and explain names;
- ask a question about words;
- give a reason;
- listen to others.

KEY WORDS

name · word · call · mean · change · same

CURRICULUM LINKS

English: nouns and naming. PSHE: names and respect. Art: name labels.

1

STIMULUS

Share something to think about

2

THINK

Quiet thinking time

3

QUESTION

Create and choose a question

4

ENQUIRE

Reason together

5

BUILD

Agree, disagree, add

6

REFLECT

Last words

Materials (per class)

- A class teddy
- Name suggestion cards
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Everyone may pass. Discuss ideas, not people, and use the story or invented examples rather than personal situations.

ACTIVITY 01 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–5 min Stimulus	Introduce the class teddy without a name.	<i>“What did you notice?”</i>
5–12 min Questions	Pupils create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>“Which question is most interesting to talk about?”</i>
12–26 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other’s ideas.	<i>“Does a name change what something is?”</i>
26–30 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>“Has your thinking changed?”</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Say whether calling the teddy “Rock” would make it hard, and why.

ACTIVITY 01 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Philosophers of language ask how words connect to the things they name.

Asking whether a name changes a thing helps children see the difference between words and the world.

Common ideas to listen for

- “The name is part of the thing.” Names are given by people.
- “Every word has only one meaning.” Many words have several.
- “Names don’t matter.” They matter to people.

Adapting the activity

Support

Choose between two names.

Stretch

Ask: could we invent a new word for something?

WORKSHEET 1

Name the teddy

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Draw and write.

Name the teddy

Name idea	Why it fits

WORKSHEET 2

Thinking moves

Use these in the enquiry.

Thinking moves

Thinking move	My example
I agree with... because...	
I disagree with... because...	
An example is...	
A counter-example is...	
Building on what... said...	

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

Why do things have names? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight pupils; copy as needed.

Pupil	Explains a name	Gives a reason	Listens to others

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

What’s in a Name? is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Language and Meaning programme (primary, level: foundation). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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