

CHRYSANTHEMUM

Read aloud the book “Chrysanthemum” by Kevin Henkes. It’s about a girl who is teased about her name but finds it’s actually special and unique.

Show students how to snap together one unifix cube for each letter in Chrysanthemum’s name. Count together. How many letters are in her name? Next, have each child snap together one unifix cube for each letter in his/her name. Count. How many blocks did you use? Can you find someone in the room who has the same number of letters in their name? Can you find someone in the room who has more letters? Less letters? One more? One less? Children walk around the room comparing quantities. Then you can make a human graph. Have all the children with 2 letters line up in a row, 3 letters line up, etc. Which line has the most children? Which line has the least children? Which line has 5 children? Have children make a recording of this by cutting out 1 block of graph paper for each letter in their name. Write a statement about the number of letters in their name.

Each child writes the letters of his/her name on round stickers and applies 1 to each unifix cube and makes a train with the cubes. Ask questions about the letters/sounds in their name, i.e., Can you find someone whose name starts with the same letter as your name? Can you find someone with the same last letter in their name?

[Adapted from: Linda Schulman Dacey and Rebeka Eston. *Growing Mathematical Ideas in Kindergarten*. Copyright © 1999 by Math Solutions Publications. Reproduced by permission. All rights reserved.]

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