Learning Students’ Names

ELL Professional Learning Module

Zoey
Tip #1: Learn to say students’ names
Warm-up: Turn & Talk

What is the story behind your name or a family name?
Getting students’ names right:

• Shows respect

• Establishes a positive relationships with families

• Creates a welcoming classroom culture

Source: Photo by Allison Shelley for EduImages/ Verbatim Agency
Mispronunciation can make students & families feel:

- Embarrassed
- Disrespected
- Unwelcome
Turn and Talk

• Is your name regularly mispronounced? If so, what is that experience like?

• What do you think the impact of mispronouncing a student's name might be?
Do...

• Listen carefully and repeat to confirm
• Ask students to record their names
• Share recordings with colleagues
• Use students’ names each day
Don’t...

- Change names
- Shorten names
- “Americanize” names
- Give nicknames
- Joke about names
- Complain about names
Turn and Talk

Why do you think that many of Mr. Homiak’s students have “given up” on expecting people to say their names correctly?

“By middle school, many have given up and adopted different or shortened names. Many needed to be convinced of the right to expect correct name pronunciation.” - Teacher Chris Homiak
Author Hena Khan

Video: The importance of names and getting them right

https://youtu.be/4TXgaQRC5Ew?si=lmjRda0TapM-IFzz
A teacher gets feedback from students that she is mispronouncing their names. What steps could she take to address their feedback?