

# Talking to Kindergarteners About Their "Name Ticket" Printing

Research project with Nellie Edge and Laura Flocker 9/09

- This is how we are going to print your name every day in kindergarten from now on. You get to practice at home and at school, and it will get easier to print every day!
- Wow! How did you learn how to make those "L"s so well?
- Remember the first week of school when you used lots of capital letters? Now you remember to use lowercase... That's good handwriting progress!
- Yes! You did it! You used lowercase letters!
- You remembered the capital letter at the beginning of your name and then all lowercase letters—good remembering!
- Wow! How did you remember the direction for making "O"?
- You made every letter with easy-to-read kindergarten handwriting. Congratulations!
- Wow! Your name writing looks like our kindergarten "name ticket" model. You formed every letter correctly. You are becoming a name writing "expert".
- That's right—we start at the top and the letter goes down.
- Your name writing is getting better every day—you sure are working hard!
- Oops! You forgot and made a capital "A" instead of a lower case "a". That's okay... take another ticket and print your name again. That's how we learn.
- You remembered to start all of your letters at the top! That makes good kindergarten writing!
- Your "B" is facing the correct direction. How do you remember that?
- You worked hard on those "M"s. Which one do you think is your best? Why?
- Oops—think about the direction that "O" goes. Let's remind your brain by making an "O" in the air again.
- I can sure tell you remember what we learned about always starting our letters at the top!
- That was a harder letter to learn, and you just kept practicing until you got it. Aren't you proud of yourself?

*To build emotional resilience, research says, "Praise children's efforts, perseverance, and willingness to try new things—not how smart they are." Specific encouragement is much more helpful than generic praise!*