

What's In A Name?

This game is great for the first day of school for your students that already know the Note Knacks color method! It is great review and a fun way for kids to get to know each other!

Objectives:

1. Students will discover how many syllables are in their name
2. Students will choose the correct rhythm for their name using Note Knacks to help them
3. Students will choose an instrument to "play" their name
4. Students will perform their name at the correct time

Materials:

- 5 Sets of Note Knacks and Time Signature Frames
- Crayons
- Long strips of paper
- Classroom percussion instruments

Methods:

1. Have group of children sit in a circle on the carpet in your room
2. As you go around the circle, have everyone say their name
3. Do the same thing, but this time have every student figure out the number of syllables in their name. (You might need to explain the definition of a syllable.) They can figure this out by seeing how many "claps" are in their name. (Depending on the grade level, you might want to refrain from using syncopated rhythms)
4. Next, review the Note Knacks color method: red = a quarter note and 2 yellows = 2 eighth notes
5. Using your name as an example, work out your name in a 4/4 measure. Example: Kristin = 2 syllables, so I would use 2 quarters then 2 quarter rests in the 4/4 time signature frame
6. Divide class into 5 small groups
7. Have kids figure out their name in 4/4 time. Remind them that they might need to use rests to complete the 4 beats needed
8. Have kids record their compositions on a long strip of paper using Phase 1 or 2 methodology
9. Have students choose an instrument in the room to play their piece
10. Have students perform their composition
11. When everyone can perform their piece correctly, have class sit in a circle again and perform their compositions consecutively; first using only using their voice, second using their voice and their chosen instrument and last using only their instrument

Assessment:

- Did students correctly decipher how many syllables are in their name?
- Did students correctly work out their name in Note Knacks?
- Did students record their compositions correctly?
- Did students play their composition correctly?
- Did students perform their compositions at the correct time when playing with the rest of the group?