

Acrostic Poem

Targeted skill

Young children are expected to master several skills associated with creating acrostic poems, such as identifying and isolating the initial sound of a word; understanding various literary forms by distinguishing among such types as stories, poems, and information books; and writing to record ideas and reflections.

Materials

- ◆ paper
- ◆ pencil

What to do

Begin by helping your child write each letter in his or her first name vertically on the left side of the paper, spacing the letters evenly up and down the page. Talk with your child about his or her personal qualities. Write a quality for each letter in his or her name. Then read the poem with your child.

Extending the activity

- ❖ You and your child can create acrostic poems for last names, other family members' names, pets' names, neighbors' names, and so on.
- ❖ You can narrow the scope of an acrostic poem by limiting the horizontal words to a category, such as foods, names of cars, or vegetables.
- ❖ Acrostic poems designed for grandparents or aunts and uncles can become treasured gifts. Help your child focus on aspects of that person that your child especially appreciates, such as *greatness*, *grins*, *gentle*, *giving*, *glorious*, *gorgeous*, or *good* for the *g* in *grandma*. Your child could write the poem on paper with an attractive border.
- ❖ Ask your child to defend his or her choice of a particular quality. Help him or her learn to support his or her decisions with reasons.

What your child is practicing

Your child is learning to associate a letter's sound with a word that begins with that letter and to make the best choice from several possibilities.