

Name Check

Names, recognition, and teacher-student connection.



FOUNDATIONAL MESSAGE

You matter here.



NOTICE



CONNECT



STRENGTHEN



DISCOVER WHY



ENVISION

STRATEGY 1 - NOTICE

Name Check

Focus: Names, recognition, and teacher-student connection

Activity Summary

Students get out of their seats and move freely around the room while music plays. When the music stops, they freeze, connect with someone nearby, and exchange names. The facilitator gradually becomes part of the challenge by asking students to introduce the person they just met and by trying to remember names themselves. The activity creates repeated, low-pressure opportunities for students and adults to notice, recognize, and connect with one another.

Why it matters

One of the simplest ways an educator can communicate that a student matters is to learn and use their name. Feeling known is an important foundation for connection, trust, and engagement. This activity gives students and the facilitator repeated, low-pressure opportunities to hear, say, and remember names while bringing positive movement and energy into the group.

Community Schools Connection

Connection · Belonging · Relationship Building

Community Schools are built around meeting the needs of the whole child. That starts with relationships. When students feel noticed, known, and recognized by the adults around them, it becomes easier to build trust and connect them to the people and supports available within the school community.

Facilitation Approach: One Instruction at a Time

Avoid explaining everything that is about to happen. The energy of this activity works best when students are simply given the next thing to do. Keep the directions short. Let the experience unfold.

STEP 1

1 Everybody Up

“ SAY

Everybody stand up.

“ THEN

When I say GO, start moving around the room. Keep moving until I tell you to stop.

“ SAY

GO!

- At the same moment the facilitator says “GO,” play some music. Let students move for approximately 10–15 seconds.

SONG SUGGESTION

“We’re Going to Be Friends” by Jack Johnson. Have the song cued up before the activity begins so the music starts immediately when you say “GO.” Another clean, school-appropriate song can also be used.

STEP 2

2 Freeze

- Pause the music.

“

SAY

FREEZE!

“

THEN

Turn to the person closest to you.

“

THEN

Give them a fist bump - or a wave if you prefer - and tell them your name.

“

ADD

Listen carefully when they tell you their name, because I may ask you to help me remember.

STEP 3

3 Help the Facilitator

- Once students have exchanged names, point to one or two pairs.

“

ASK

FACILITATOR: “Okay, help me out. What’s their name?”**STUDENT:** “This is Maya.”**FACILITATOR:** “Maya. Got it.”

“

THEN

All right. When I say GO, start moving again.

“

SAY

GO!

STEP 4

4 Meet Someone New

- After another 10–15 seconds, pause the music.

“

SAY

FREEZE!

“

THEN

Find the person closest to you. Try to make it someone different this time.

“

THEN

Fist bump or wave. Exchange names.

“

TRY

Let me see if I remember. You’re Carlos... right?

Mistakes should remain light. The facilitator is practicing too.

STEP 5

5 Add a Third Person

“

SAY

When I say GO, start moving again.

“

THEN SAY

GO!

- Start the music. After another short movement period, pause the music.

“

SAY

FREEZE!

“

THEN

This time, get together with the two people closest to you.

“

THEN

Make sure all three of you know everybody's name.

- Give them a few seconds, then point to a group.

“

ASK

FACILITATOR: “Who can introduce your group to me?”

STUDENT: “This is Marcus, this is Elena, and I’m Jayden.”

FACILITATOR: “Marcus, Elena, Jayden.”

Optional Final Challenge

“

SAY

Okay. Let me see how many names I’ve got already.

Try several. When the facilitator forgets, ask students to help. This reinforces that learning names is a shared process rather than a test.

Close

“

SAY

I’m going to keep working on your names because learning someone’s name is one of the first ways we show them, “I see you, and you matter here.”

“

THEN

We’re going to keep helping each other learn them too.

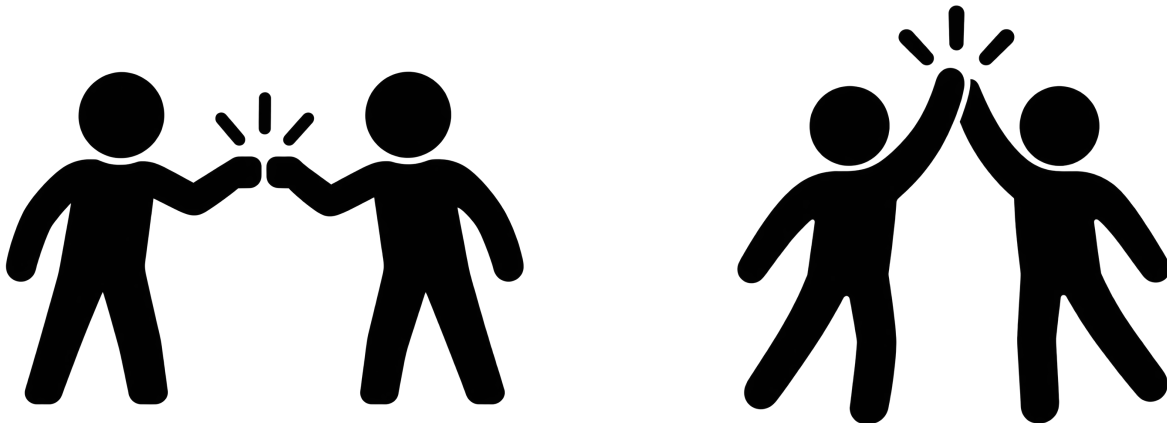
“

THEN

As you return to your seats, give at least 3 people a high five or fist bump.

You matter here.

SLIDE VISUAL



MOVE > FREEZE > MEET > REMEMBER



NOTICE

>



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