



What's in a Name

Module: IV
Topic: Harmonizing Cultural Diversity
Type: Icebreaker
Group Size: Large Group
Time: 20 – 30 minutes

Purpose:

To promote self-awareness of one's own background and acceptance of cultural diversity.

What you will need:

Participant Materials	Trainer Materials	Equipment
	::Children's book: <u>Chrysanthemum</u> (see Source Material for reference)	

Directions:

1. Read the children's book Chrysanthemum to the group. Here is a summary provided by the Amazon.com Web site: Until Chrysanthemum started kindergarten, she believed her parents when they said her name was perfect. But on the first day of school, Chrysanthemum begins to suspect that her name is far less than perfect, especially when her class dissolves into giggles upon hearing her name read aloud. That evening, Chrysanthemum's parents try to piece her self-esteem back together again with comfort, food and a night filled "with hugs, kisses, and Parcheesi." But the next day Victoria, a particularly observant and mean-spirited classmate, announces that Chrysanthemum's name takes up 13 letters, "That's half the letters in the alphabet!" she adds. Chrysanthemum wilts. Pretty soon the girls are making playground threats to "pluck" Chrysanthemum and "smell her." What sustains Chrysanthemum, and this story, is the steadfast love and support of her family.
2. In the hope of creating interest in getting to know each other better, ask each person to introduce themselves to the group by explaining why they were given their name. You might start the process by introducing yourself so people get some idea of what they might say (please note the introductions of this kind will take at least two to four minutes per person).

PITC ACTIVITIES

Variations:

Links to Head Start Program Performance Standards:

:: 1304.51 (e) Communication among staff.

Activity Developed by:

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Source Material:

Carter, Margie and Deb Curtis (1994). *Training Teachers: A Harvest of Theory and Practice*, St. Paul, MN: Resources for Child Caring.

Henkes, K. (1991) *Chrysanthemum*. New York, NY: Mulberry Books (William Morrow & Co)

