

RESOURCE SHEETS

Session 5



Pages that need to be cut apart or shared are not set-up for back-to-back printing.

RESOURCE SHEET 5a - Parent/Child Conversation

Note: This parent/child conversation could happen at home, as part of a family day, or via planned phone call from one of your sessions. Edit the directions, below, as needed for your particular setting.

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Our learners have been involved in a variety of explorations to help them understand this text that was probably written in the 8th or 9th century CE.

A person is known by 3 names:
 the name their parent(s) call them,
 the name other people call them,
 and the one they earn for themselves.

The most important name is the one they earn for themselves.

Midrash Tanhuma

Your child is ready to consider what name(s) they have already earned and what name(s) they might aspire to. We need your help with this conversation since you, obviously, know your child the best.

We have defined the name that their parents call them as their given name at birth, though this could also be a name like son, sweetie, or babe. The name that others call them has been described as more relational names like friend, brother or niece, though it could also be:

- a kind of nickname like Suzze for Susan or Superman for Clark Kent
- or a profession like doctor,
- or a descriptor like “polio survivor” (that’s a name we used as part of a 3-name discussion on Israeli-American violinist, Itzhak Perlman).

A name that one earns, though, comes through effort whether intentional or unintentional. In the Purim story, Queen Esther stood up against Haman and earned names like “brave” and “upstander.” On the other hand, King Ahasuerus was pretty blind to Haman’s hatred against the Jews. While one couldn’t say that he tried to earn the name of weak or ineffectual, those names could have been granted to him. Note that we are defining an earned name in terms of both human qualities (brave, peacemaker, good friend, patient, quick-to-anger, curious) and in terms of one’s talent or skill (athlete, musician, scientist) or special earned titles (MVP, Nobel Prize winner, Caldecott award winner). There is a bit of overlap in the definitions of the name others call a person and the name one earns.

However you think best, we would like you to have a conversation with your child to explore names that they have already earned, as well as a name they may wish to earn in whatever period of time you feel is appropriate (it could be days, weeks, months or years). In the midst of this conversation, you may wish to “gift” your child a name. Please send me an email or text with both the earned and aspired-to-name your child has discussed with you. We will be using the names in some upcoming projects.

Thanks so much!

RESOURCE SHEET 5b - The Name I Earn

Do you need help deciding on a name you could earn?

Start at the top of this form and fill in the boxes.

Then, share this sheet with a teacher or parent. Talk about a name you might try to earn.



