

Celebrate Me: Treating Each Child as a Special Person

Check It Out

Chrysanthemum

by Kevin Henkes
(Grades K–2)

Chrysanthemum has a very long and awkward name, but soon she discovers that being different can be special.

First Day in Grapes

by L. King Pérez
(Grades 2–3)

Chico must face another first day of school as his migrant family moves to harvest the next crop. Despite the challenges he faces, he shares his strengths with his teacher and classmates and has a successful first day.

Gugi Gugi

by Chih-Yuan Chen
(Grades 1–3)

In this tale of mistaken identity and the strength of family bonds, a baby crocodile is raised with ducks. When he discovers his “own kind,” he realizes he might just be more duck than croc.

Horace and Morris Joined the Chorus (but What about Dolores?)

by James Howe
(Grades 1–2)

Horace and Morris embrace their singing voices. Dolores, however, has a different path into the musical group.

My Name Is Yoon

by Helen Recorvits
(Grades K–1)

For a young Korean girl, everything in America is new, even the way names are written.

Stellaluna

by Janell Cannon
(Grades K–2)

In this ugly duckling story, a young bat falls from its mother’s grasp into a nest of birds.

Activities

- Write a story about your child. You can use a book that you both enjoy as a guide. Print it carefully in a notebook and ask your child to illustrate it.
- Every child has special memories to share. Help your child treasure those memories with a scrapbook. Take a notebook and label each page with a different topic such as Movies I Like, Special Places I Have Visited, and so on. Encourage your child to fill the pages with mementos from his life.
- Share pictures from your childhood or look at pictures of your child together. Talk about the stages of development and ways that personalities and characteristics change with age, and ways they remain the same.
- Set up a small bulletin board, white board, or special place on the wall for members of your family to celebrate each other. Post holiday cards, schoolwork, artwork, or messages of love or gratitude on the board as reminders that we all need and deserve praise.

Table Talk

In some countries such as Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, or Sweden, people celebrate name days much as they celebrate birthdays. Designate a “name day” for your child. Celebrate the day by sharing the story of how you came up with that name. Try to find out other facts about your child’s name or create your own story or poem including the name.

Family Field Trip

Some of the best trips are those close to home. Take a trip to your child’s bedroom and look at it from a different perspective. How does the room reflect your child? Help create a cozy reading nook, add some colorful pillows or curtains, hang a picture, or add a plant to really make her room a comfortable place.