Chrysanthemum is My Name

Unit 4

Grade Level

Kindergarten

Overview

In this task, the students will compare the length of their names with the length of their classmate’s names using cube towers. They will share and discuss the differences and similarities in the lengths using math vocabulary such as longer, shorter, more and less.

Key Standards

MKM1. Students will group objects according to common properties such as longer/shorter, more/less, taller shorter, and heavier/lighter.
   a. Compare and order objects on the basis of length.

Possible Materials

1. Book – Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes or similar book
2. Unifix Cubes (in sets of 10)
3. Index Card (for child to print name on)
4. Comparing Names Recording Sheet
5. Pictures of children or children’s names printed.

Task

1. Before the Lesson - Read the book Chrysanthemum. Also, look at students’ names and have them grouped accordingly (small groups of five work best - see recording sheet).
2. Have the title of book written on the board and refer to this.
3. Let’s count the number of letters in that word.
4. Tell students to write their names on index cards.
5. Assign students to their groups.
6. Make a tower with the cubes to represent the number of letters in your name.
7. Discuss your group’s towers.
8. Assist students if needed on recording sheet.
   (If students’ have difficulty writing other children’s names, use the pictures/printed names instead)

Sample Questions

1. How many letters are in your tower?
2. Compare your tower with a partner’s tower, is it longer/shorter/same?
3. How many more letters do you have in your name than _____? How many more letters does _____ have than you?
4. Compare your name to Chrysanthemums’. Is it longer or shorter? (Again ask them to tell how many more/less/same.)
**Sample Question Solutions**

Students should be able to stand their towers and state how many letters are in their name. Students will align their standing tower with a partner’s tower and state whether the length is longer/shorter/same. Students may have difficulty seeing the difference between their names and their partners. Continue to guide struggling students and also ask other students who have grasped this concept to answer the question.

**Assessment Ideas**

- Comparing Names Recording Sheet (check for accuracy of counting and comparing)
- Anecdotal Notes