

I Am a Poem!

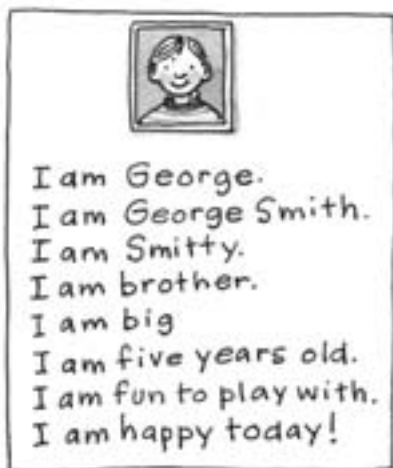
Celebrate children's identities as individuals and as group members by creating poetry together. Try creating one or two of these poems each week in September!

HOW-TO

1 Model writing an "I Am..." poem by writing one about yourself, with the group's help. The format for the poem is a repeating line that starts with "I am...." Each line describes something about the person, his or her name or nicknames, feelings, and interests. Encourage children to add ideas to your poem.

2 Ask for a child to volunteer to make up an "I Am..." poem. Use photos of each child for inspiration.

3 As children suggest lines for the poem, write their words on chart paper. You can help them by asking questions. You might ask, *What is the name you are called at home? Are you a sister or a brother? Are you big or little? How old are you? How do you feel today?*



MATERIALS: chart paper, markers, crayons, photo of each child

SKILLS: name recognition, creative language, speaking and dictating



- Collect the poems in a big class book. Children can add self-portraits to their page as illustration.
- Read children's poems occasionally at circle time. The repetitive nature of the wording makes this a quick and easy reading exercise. Children will learn to read the sight words *I* and *am* very quickly!