



How to Teach a Child to Respond to Their Name

The do's and don'ts to help reach this important milestone

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Here's my strategy for getting your child to respond to his name, using Matt as an example:

- Tell everyone in the environment to stop using Matt's name throughout the day
- Get several of Matt's strongest consumable or controllable reinforcers (chips or bubbles, for instance)
- Go behind Matt when he is engaged in another activity
- Call his name while standing just a few inches behind him at first
- Immediately touch his shoulder, turn him around, and hand him a reinforcer
- Gradually fade your prompt by standing a little further away and delay touching his shoulder by a second or two
- If possible take data on the distance and prompt level for 10 trials per day
- Matt will learn that when he hears his name, good things happen
- This can be done throughout the day, whenever you are able to deliver reinforcement

**Most importantly:
Limit the use of your child or client's name,
especially when giving a demand or saying no.
Example: Don't say "Matt touch your nose" or
"Matt stop that!"**

We want to help you find success for your child or client. Take the first step by completing this [free 10-minute digital assessment](#) today.