

All About Me

Introduction

Life is about growing and changing—especially in early childhood. Young children explore their environment and learn about themselves each day as new experiences are offered. This exploration may range from walking across the balance beam, throwing a ball, drawing and painting new pictures, or adding new words to their vocabulary. The “All About Me” *HyperStudio* stacks offer children a way to tell about themselves and share with others.

Materials

- Computer
- *HyperStudio*
- *My Amazing Human Body*
- Choose one or more of the following:
 - Camera and scanner
 - Digital camera
 - QuickCam

Ahead of Time

- Collect basic information about each child. Pictures or a digital images of the child, vital statistics (e.g., age, height, hair color), pictures of family members and pets, favorite activities, and pictures of friends are just a few of the items to be collected.
- Open a **New Stack** in *HyperStudio*. Save this stack with a general class name.
- Import a picture of each child from the classroom on the first card (this may require more than one introduction card). The photographs will be used as links to each child’s individual stack.
- Open another **New Stack** in *HyperStudio*. Save this stack with the name of an individual child.
- Import the child’s photograph as a graphic object on the first card of the stack. Add a colorful frame around the picture.
- Place symbols on the first card that will branch off into different areas. They may symbolize facts (e.g., age, height), family information, activities in school, and so on.
- Repeat this process for each child.
- Connect each individual stack to the classroom stack.
- Create an invisible button, place it over the child’s individual picture on the first card of the stack (the card with multiple children’s pictures), and then link it to the child’s individual stack.

Introductory Activity

Introduce Dorling Kindersley’s *My Amazing Human Body* to the classroom. Offer children time to explore the program during computer time. After taking time to study the human body, turn to the part of the program that holds a diary and ask each child to share

information. This is a great time to invite families into the classroom. Parents can work with children to share the information.

Computer Activity

- Transfer the information entered in the diary section of Dorling Kindersley's *My Amazing Human Body* over to each child's individual stack. Give children the opportunity to create their own computer-generated illustrations with *HyperStudio* tools.
- Invite family members to share pictures from home. Add pictures to a page and connect it as a link to the family icon.
- Use a scanner, digital camera, and video capabilities to add to the stack over the year as children work on different activities.
- Continue working with the stack over the year, adding child's thoughts, illustrations, sounds, animation, and photos.

Extended Activity

Create an informational area in the room where children can share who they are and what they like to do. Children will not only be able to share with others, but will be able to visit and talk about themselves and the others in the classroom.

Summary

This stack starts out looking at factual information that can be easily documented (i.e., by measuring, weighing, etc.). By the end of the year, it takes on the look of an authentic portfolio assessment tool as children and teachers make choices about what best illustrates information about the children, their families, and the activities that each child did over the course of the school year. As children dictate and add sound, teachers can document children's language patterns and their concepts about print. The stack can be printed and passed on to families and other teachers in digital and hard copy format.