People, things, and ideas often have several different names. For example, Mary calls her parents Mom and Dad. Other people may call them Linda and John, Aunt Linda and Uncle John, or Grandma and Grandpa. Mail may come addressed to Mr. and Mrs. West. All of these names are for the same two people.

Your child is bringing home an activity with a special format for using this naming idea with numbers. We call this format a name-collection box. The box is used by children to collect many names for a given number.

The box is identified by the name on the label. The box shown here is a 25-box, a name-collection box for the number 25.

Names can include sums, differences, products, quotients, or combinations of operations, as well as words (including words in other languages), tally marks, and arrays. A name-collection box can be filled by using any equivalent names.

With repeated practice, children gain the power to rename numbers for a variety of different uses.