

Reading emotions in others

Learning objective

Students identify external body cues and verbal cues that people demonstrate when they are feeling a range of emotions. They identify how to 'look' and 'listen' to read these emotions in others and practise reading emotions in others in role-play situations.

Take Home Messages

- Feelings, even uncomfortable ones, are useful.
- We all have many feelings and we may feel differently in the same situation.
- There are no right or wrong feelings.
- There are a range of external and internal body signals that indicate how we and others are feeling.
- Being able to read others' emotions helps us to get on with them.
- Listening to the words others' use, watching their facial expressions and looking at their body language help us to read others' emotions.
- We need to be considerate and respect others' feelings.

Materials

- Picture book where characters show a range of feelings
- Teaching Resource: Feelings cards [one set per group]
- Student Activity Sheet: Reading feelings in others [one per student]

Before You Get Started

- Teachers should know and understand the [protective interrupting](#) technique, and what, why, when and how it is needed and used, before facilitating this activity.

Learning Activities

Whole Class

Students learn to identify the clues to recognising emotions in other people.

1. Conduct a [shared reading](#) of a picture book that shows the characters expressing feelings, such as [I Have Feelings!](#) or [Things That Make You Feel Good, Things That Make You Feel Bad](#). Ask the students:
 - What might (insert character name) be feeling here?
 - How can you tell?
 - What body signals do you feel inside when you feel this feeling?
 - What signals do we see in others to let us know they are feeling this feeling? (focus on tone of voice, words used, facial expressions, body language)
2. Explain that you can learn to understand other people's feelings by looking at body clues: looking at their faces, looking at the way they stand (body posture) and listening to what other people say and the way their voice sounds (tone of voice). Whiteboard this information under the headings of 'looking' and 'listening'.
3. Tell students that we can often guess how others feel but then we should always check by asking. Sometimes we misunderstand how people are feeling and then might respond in a way that is not helpful.
4. Conduct a [think-pair-share](#) to discuss how they could recognise when:

- A friend is sad
- A friend is excited
- A brother or sister is worried
- A parent is disappointed
- A classmate is shy
- A parent is angry.

Independent or Small Group

Students have the opportunity to practise recognising emotions.

1. Have students form small [circle talk](#) circles. Give each student standing in the inside circle, a feeling card from Teaching Resource: Feelings cards.
2. Explain that these students must [role-play](#) a situation that might give them the feeling shown on the card. For example, if their feelings card is 'happy' then they might mime opening a present and looking happy about what is inside.
3. The students standing in the outside circle must try to guess the feeling, explaining what body clues they saw and what word clues they heard that led them to guess this feeling.
4. Students standing in the inside circle students pass their feelings card to their partner and the outside circle then moves on one person to the right.
5. Repeat the process several times so students are exposed to a range of feelings and have several opportunities to both guess and perform a feeling.

3-2-1 Reflection

1. Give each student a copy of the Student Activity Sheet: Reading feelings in others.
 - Explain each situation and discuss possible answers, focusing on looking for body clues and listening to words and tone of voice. Have parent helpers or student buddies read to poorer readers.
2. Have students complete the activity sheet. Discuss the findings as a whole class.

Managing family change

Learning objective

Students discuss the changes that take place in families and identify realistic independent activities that they can do to help and cope with these changes.

Take Home Messages

- People's lives have different stages of growth and development.
- Families change when a new member arrives or departs.

Materials

- Book: Changes by Anthony Browne (or alternative text)
- Emotions/feelings cards (optional)

Before You Get Started

- Be mindful that discussing significant changes in the family's routine, structure or dynamic might

bring up issues for students (e.g. separation or divorce; or death of a parent, grandparent or pet). This activity focuses on babies as a way of discussing change in a family, however some students may not have younger siblings so other topics relating to change may need to be used as the stimulus for discussion.

- It is important for the teacher to consider and affirm a range of parenting styles, family contexts and cultural backgrounds students may describe, to ensure the traditional family structure is not held up as the 'norm', or the only or best way.
- Teachers should know and understand the [protective interrupting](#) technique, and what, why, when and how it is needed and used, before facilitating this activity.

Learning Activities

Whole Class

This activity uses the picture book [Changes](#) by Anthony Browne (or an alternative text) as the starting point to reinforce the changes that occur in families.

1. Set the scene: Highlight to students that we were all babies once, but have grown and developed and can now do things that we couldn't do when we were younger.
2. Use a [shared reading](#) strategy to guide this activity. Provide students with a short period of time to preview the book [Changes](#) silently as a group.
3. Ask students to share their predictions of the main ideas with a partner. Select a few students to share their predictions. Ask:
 - What do you think the story will be about?
 - How do you know and why do you think this?
 - Can you think of any good changes that have happened in your family?
 - How have you felt when these changes have happened?
 - Can you think of any not so good changes that have happened in your family?
 - How have you felt when these changes have happened?
4. Read the story to the class. The following focus questions may be used as a prompt to assist students to think about the story:
 - What are some of the differences we notice between babies, toddlers, young people, teenagers or adults like our parents? (size, independence, thinking, what they can do, how they speak)
 - Where do we get this information about what babies can do and what children your age can do? (our own families; friend's families; watching families on TV, in ads, in magazines; at the movies)
 - Do we sometimes see children your age on TV or in ads or in movies doing physical things that you can't do? What things? (e.g. super powers) Can you believe these things you see in the media all the time?
5. In the context of the story *Changes*, discuss the needs of a baby and how he/she can impact on other family members. If another text is chosen, discuss the family changes that occur during the story and how this impacts other family members.
6. Babies' needs might include food (milk that sometimes comes from mothers' breastfeeding, sometimes from a bottle), play and someone looking out for them (they can't really be left alone unsupervised, etc).
7. Incorporate ideas about how their own needs, as well as those of others, may also change, causing a shift in the dynamics of the family (e.g. the attention they once had from their parents may have shifted to the baby or person in need; they may be expected to be more independent and self-manage certain tasks). Ask:
 - How has this made them feel?
 - What physical things can babies do?
 - What physical things can toddlers do?
 - What physical things can you do now?

- What games could you play with babies?
 - What games can you play now?
8. Discuss how older children can modify their behaviour and habits around the home to support the family in adapting to the baby's arrival.

Independent or Small Group

Students explore and identify activities they are able to do independently to support family change.

1. Have students work together in small groups or pairs to compile a list of tasks they have been able to do and manage themselves as they grow older and become more independent.
 - This could include self-management related tasks such as: packing their own school bag, putting their clean or dirty clothes away, preparing themselves for bed, brushing their teeth, organising their uniform or equipment for sports practice.
2. Have students select a scribe to write down a word to describe, or draw a picture of, each task on strips of paper or post-it notes.
3. Create a pin-up board, poster or use blu-tack to display the words somewhere in the classroom for students to share.

3-2-1 Reflection

1. Using suggestions from the students, develop a list of 'feeling' words and emotions that might describe changes that occur in a family. Accept all suggestions, recording words that have both positive and negative connotations (e.g. excited, happy, surprised, disappointed, sad or angry).
 - Students could use these as a stimulus to create their own class 'bank of emotions' photo montage or book. Each student could create a face to match a different emotion. Using these as visual reminders would be a great way for students to refer back to as needed in the future.
2. An alternative option is to provide a set of the emotions/feelings cards and have students select a card each using the strategy [think-pair-share](#) to further explore how facial expressions show how people are feeling and to practise naming emotions.
 - Emotions/feelings cards can be downloaded from the site [Do2Learn](#) or purchased from [Innovative resources](#).

Good playing skills

Learning objective

Students discuss and practise strategies for making new friends and including others in activities and games through practising good playing skills. Feelings such as anxiety and nervousness, and strategies such as resilience and persistence, are discussed.

Take Home Messages

- A range of strategies can be used to include others in activities and games.
- Healthy relationships take persistence and effort.
- Getting on with others makes us feel happy.
- Friends should be appreciated.

Materials

- A range of strategies can be used to include others in activities and games.

- Healthy relationships take persistence and effort.
- Getting on with others makes us feel happy.
- Friends should be appreciated.

Before You Get Started

Teachers should know and understand the [protective interrupting](#) technique, and what, why, when and how it is needed and used, before facilitating this activity.

Learning Activities

Whole Class

Students create a Snakes and Ladders board game to identify positive and negative actions when playing with friends.

1. Ask the students:

- How do we make people feel welcome in our homes?
- How can we make people feel welcome if they are new to our class?
- How can we make people feel welcome in the playground?
- How do you feel when people do not make you feel welcome?
- What are some things we can say to others to help them feel included and welcome?
- What are some things we might say to others that might cause them to not feel included and unwelcome?
- What are some non-verbal signs that might make people feel welcome? (smiling, holding hands, giving a hug, looking people in the eye)
- What are some non-verbal signs that might make people feel unwelcome? (running away from a friend, staring at someone, hitting someone, pulling faces, whispering about someone)
- What can you do when a person or a group of people make you feel unwelcome? (ignore them, move away, play with someone else, tell an adult if it happens often)
- What does it mean when someone says "He/she plays well"? (takes turns, plays by the rules, encourages others, etc.)
- What does it mean when someone says "He/she doesn't play well"? (doesn't take turns, cheats, doesn't congratulate others when they win, doesn't include others, etc.)
- Why is it important to know how to play well? (it helps us get along with others, makes us feel happier and feel like we belong)

2. Students form small groups and receive one A3 copy of Teaching Resource: Snakes and Ladders board game or similar. They work in groups to establish five 'good playing skills' and five 'bad playing mistakes' to be used on cards for a snakes and ladders game. They should write their good playing skills in green and their bad playing mistakes in red and start each sentence with "You....." For example:

"You have your turn quickly" (ladder response)

"You take a long time to have your turn" (snake response)

3. Have students glue their snake and ladder responses in the appropriate places on their Snakes and Ladder game board with Blu-tac and then pass their completed sheet to the next group. Students then play a game of snakes and ladders using their newly acquired board game, a dice and coloured markers.
4. Discuss the factors that may make it harder or easier to 'do the right thing' in some of the

ladder responses.

5. Alternative activity: Instead of playing the Snakes and Ladders game, the statements developed by students could be used to form a collection of 'How to play well' cards. Ask two students to draw a card and then perform a short 'speed skit'. The rest of the class then decides whether this was a 'how to play well' situation. If it wasn't they then suggest what they think the right thing to do would be and why. Encourage students to perform their skit quickly to maintain interest and expose students to a wide range of skills and mistakes.

Independent or Small Group

Students practise good playing skills with a partner.

1. Revise the 'good playing skills' and 'bad playing mistakes' from the previous activity.
2. Ask:
 - What does a good winner look/sound like?
 - What does a bad winner look/sound like?
 - What does a good loser look/sound like?
 - What does a bad loser look/sound like?
 - How do you feel when you play with a bad winner?
 - How do you feel when you play with a good winner?
 - How do you feel when you play with a bad loser?
 - How do you feel when you play with a good loser?
3. Students form pairs and receive Student Activity Sheet: How well do we play?. Explain that they are about to play a game with their partner and they are going to try to practise all the good playing skills that they have learnt.
4. Assign a game to each pair (the Snakes and Ladders from the previous activity or other board games or gross motor games such as ten pins, quoits).
 - On the completion of the game, each pair fills out their worksheet together.
 - Have each pair join with another pair and share their findings, particularly the skill they want to practise.

3-2-1 Reflection

1. Students use [thought shapes](#) to reflect on their learning. Explain what each shape signifies:

Triangle: The most important thing I have learnt from doing this activity. Square: How I can apply the knowledge and skills I have learnt outside this classroom. Heart: How I feel about using the skills and ideas I have learnt. Circle: The thoughts still going around in my head after this activity.

2. Students can talk or write about their responses to these shapes.
3. Record the questions raised by students from the 'circle' shape and plan further learning experiences using this information.