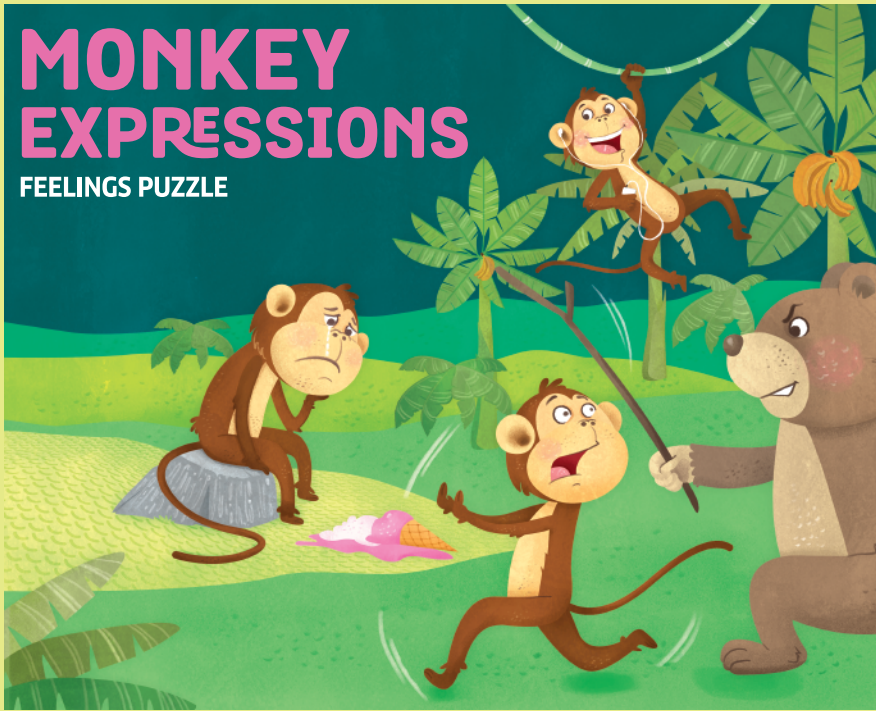


MONKEY EXPRESSIONS

FEELINGS PUZZLE



AGES 3+

PLAYERS 1 OR MORE

A note for parents and educators

Monkey expressions is designed as a discovery tool with a creative twist. Use it to build emotional literacy by looking at how feelings are reflected on a face. Along with using this puzzle, use books, mirrors and pictures to help children see different emotions. Get creative and engage children in a read-aloud: help them identify the emotions of the characters in a situation and then ask them to make the same expression on the monkey.

You could also use Monkey Expressions as an 'Emotion Check-in', either at home or when children come into a classroom. It will encourage them to think about how they are feeling. It will be a great way for children to recognise and share their feelings.

Identifying and talking about feelings is critical to a preschooler's social-emotional development, contributing to positive social interactions and an overall success in learning. Use the situation thought bubbles to encourage them to think about situations and the feelings they may evoke. Ask children to give the monkey an expression and suggest possible reasons for why the monkey may be feeling a certain way.

The toolbox can help you to reinforce the following key concepts about emotions:

- Emotions change with situations and the way you think about a situation may impact how you feel
- You can have more than one emotion about something
- You can feel differently from someone else about the same thing
- All emotions are valid – it is what you do with them that counts

Get familiar with the elements of the game

There are 5 monkey expressions:



HAPPY



SAD



SURPRISED



ANGRY



SCARED

There are 5 thought bubbles:



The monkey is surprised to see butterflies fly out, when s/he opens the gift box. Or is s/he scared?

The monkey is angry because his/her friend snatched his/her banana. Or is s/he jealous?



The happy monkey on the tree is enjoying listening to his/her favourite song.

The monkey is scared because s/he is being chased by an angry bear.



The monkey is sad because his/her ice-cream fell on the ground. Or is s/he angry?

How to play

Level 1: COPY

Begin with encouraging children to use the puzzle pieces to give the monkey the same expression as those shown in the reference.

Level 2: RECALL

Name the feeling. E.g. "Scared" and ask the child to create that expression on the monkey without looking at the reference pictures.

Level 3: CONNECT

Place a situation thought bubble over the monkey's head. See what's happening and ask the child to infer the feeling, name it and make that expression on the monkey.

Play individually or in a group. Take turns to give the monkey an expression and invent reasons for the expression displayed. E.g. If you give the monkey, a "happy" expression, a child may say, "s/he's happy being cuddled" or another may say, "s/he's happy because s/he made friends with a dinosaur."

A great conversation tool about the connection between emotions and facial expressions. Ask children to think about what they are feeling and express it on the monkey's face.

Be totally creative in your play!

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