



## Social Cues Recognition Activity

### Emotional Charades

#### DIRECTIONS

1. Introduce the pictures depicting an emotion using the Emotional Charades Card Deck.
2. Invite the children to name the emotion displayed in the picture in each of the cards.
3. Mix the cards up into a different order and have the children suggest names for the facial expression again.
4. Ask the children to try to come up with another emotion that could describe what is displayed in the pictures.
5. Take pictures of the children making faces and have them put expressions to the faces.

After the cards have been displayed at least twice, alter the activity by having the children physically demonstrate the emotion displayed on the cards. Encourage the children to use facial features and upper body movements.

For younger children:

- Play peek-a-boo by sliding your hand over your face and show an exaggerated facial expression when you drop your hand for the child to see [eg. happy, sad, angry, upset etc.] and tell the child what emotion you are showing them. It is important to pair the face and word over and over again.
- Point out the facial expression of characters in stories, movies, etc. to your youngster and explain what feeling that character is demonstrating based on its expression. You may want to pair that short description with a comment regarding why you think it is that emotion.

For older children:

- Create emotion cards with the emotions, or “feelings” word recorded below or on the back to reinforce the description with the emotion displayed.
- Have the children create emoticons from words that you suggest or locate in their favorite stories. [eg. horrified; what would horrified look like?].
- Discuss how the children could recognize the emotions in themselves, or perhaps with another person. What would they have to pay attention to?
- **Practice** recognizing various emotions by observing and talking about characters in the media [eg. movies, magazines, advertisements].
- Print off the emotional charades PowerPoint presentation ([www.buildingbrains.me](http://www.buildingbrains.me)) and spend time discussing the differences between the emotions. Your child may enjoy creating oral stories of how each character might experience each of the emotions or “feelings” displayed.