



## Emotion words

**Emotion words** let children express their feelings, and better identify how others feel. Children need different **emotion words** to clearly explain how events make them feel.

To help children use **emotion words** in sentences, you can:

- Use **emotion words in your own talking** to describe how people feel, and
- Repeat children's sentences and **add on emotion words**.

## Play with emotion words: Use emotion words in your play together



### Play...with a teddy or action figures

Play with your child using dolls, bears, or action figures. Use **emotion words** in short sentences to talk about how the toys would feel in different situations.

Child: It is teddy's birthday!

You: Teddy is *excited* because it is his birthday!



### At home...looking at photographs

Look at photographs of family and friends together. Use **emotion words** in short sentences to describe how people are feeling in the pictures.

You: She is *surprised*. He is *tired*. She is *cross*.



### Out and about...at the playground

Talk about feelings when you are at the playground or park. Add on emotion words to your child's sentences.

Child: That's a big slide (*pulling back and holding on tightly*).

You: That slide is very big. It's ok to be a bit *scared*!



## Emotion words

**Read** with emotion words: Visit the library and borrow some books

*What Makes Me Happy?* by Catherine and Laurence Anholt

*The Very Cranky Bear* by Nick Bland

*Happy, Sad, Feeling Glad* by Yasmeen Ismail

**Words** to grow: Use these words in your day

Children will often learn *happy* and *sad* first. There are lots of words that describe our **emotions**. Think about different situations and how they might make children feel.

Words about feelings: *tired, angry, cross, scared, delighted, bored, OK, disappointed, frustrated, cranky, excited, calm*

Situations: *holiday, an outing, a new toy, losing a toy, a surprise/change*

**Learn** about emotion words: Ways to help language grow

When you **use emotion words in your own talking**, you are:

- Showing children ways to describe feelings, and
- Helping them to use more **emotion words**.

When you **repeat children's sentences** and **add on emotion words**, you are:

- Showing you understand what they have said, and
- Showing children how to include **emotion words** next time.

Children not have to repeat words after you. The more often children hear **emotion words** to describe feelings in their day, the more likely they will understand new words and begin to use them in their own talking.

**Speech pathology key terms:** Emotion vocabulary, modelling, expansion.