



HOW DO YOU FEEL FELT FACES

Materials you need:

- 3 – 4 oval shapes cut from felt to represent faces. If you can try to include some light and some darker felt pieces to represent different cultures.
- Some basic facial features cut from different coloured felt – start with ears, noses, mouths, eyebrows and eyes. Ensure you include happy, sad, angry, smiling mouths and perhaps some angry and surprised eyebrows.
- You can find lots of templates on google or the internet to if you need a stencil to work from for the facial features or [you can download and cut out these printables](#) then just add a Velcro dot or glue a piece of felt to the back of the picture so they stick on the faces (I suggest laminating smaller pieces first)
- A mirror set up on the table (or some smaller Perspex ones they can pick up and use)

Setup for play:

- Simply place the felt faces on the table and spread out all of the other felt (or laminated) facial features.
- Ask each child how they feel today. What does that look like? Could they make their face using the felt? What does that face look like in the mirror?
- Now step back and let the children experiment, explore and create the faces and felt pieces in their own way.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children create their faces and explore emotions they are learning to:

- Develop new vocabulary and language skills
- Use their imagination to explore real life events
- Represent and label facial features that express feelings and emotions
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Listen and respond to sounds and patterns in music and speech
- Use language and sound to communicate their thinking
- Express emotions and use gestures.
- Use descriptive language to name their facial features and any emotions shown
- Explore the unique aspects of their identity through simple actions and play
- Make decisions about the materials they want to use and what works best.
- Become aware of connections, similarities and differences between people
- Use observational skills to look closely and notice details

Extending the play:

- Glue extra printed facial features onto smooth stones – just add a little watered down PVA or modge podge over the top to seal then add them to the felt faces along with some material scraps, wool, buttons or other loose parts so they can make different faces with lots of different textures.
- Use songs, finger puppets, musical instruments or dancing to explore emotions and feelings in more active ways. What does an angry dance look like? What instruments could we use to make a happy sounding tune?

