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Metropolitan Borough of Rochdale

Education Committee

**8.7 Understanding emotions from facial expressions**

**Why is this important?  
Facial expressions are the way we understand how others feel. They  
communicate essential information to the listener and are a fundamental  
part of social understanding. Being able to read and describe emotions in  
others helps in the development of emotional intelligence.**

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What to do  
• Collect together pictures from catalogues/magazines or photographs  
of faces showing emotions**

**(e.g. a baby crying, a scared child, a happy clown, a surprised lady).  
• Put out the pictures and talk about the different emotions, e.g.  
★ ‘Look, the girl is scared. What could she be scared of?**

**Maybe a big dog or a ride at the fair?’  
• Demonstrate a ‘scared’ face and ask the child to copy.  
• Try this for all four emotions – ‘happy’, ‘sad’, ‘scared’, ‘surprised’.  
• Put out the four pictures and ask the child to point to:  
★ ‘Who’s surprised?’  
★ ‘Who’s happy?’  
• As you share books, talk about how people are feeling and why.**

**The link below takes you to a YouTube clip where the StoryBots think about Emotions**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akTRWJZMks0**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akTRWJZMks0)