

ACTIVITY GUIDE

# Emoji Flashcards



# OBJECTIVE

To help children explore, recognize, and discuss different emotions by matching images with emojis.

This activity encourages emotional awareness, social interaction, and open discussion about feelings.

It also incorporates technology in a simple way, allowing children to use QR codes to validate or explore emotional connections.



# PREPARATION BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

## 1. Familiarize Yourself with the Flashcards and QR Codes



Go through the flashcard set and observe the range of images and possible emotions they might evoke.



Ensure that you understand how to scan the QR codes and what shows up on the screen. Make sure the scanning device is charged and ready.



Pick as many flashcards as you deem appropriate for the session (e.g. depending on the number of children, their age, other factors).



Choose the emojis that you find appropriate for the children's age.



Stack the flashcards in a pile and have each child pick one in turns or place all flashcards on a surface (e.g. floor or table) and have the participants choose which flashcard they want to engage with. They can take turns.

## 2. Set Up a Discussion Space



Arrange a comfortable, quiet space where the children can sit together and discuss their chosen cards and emotions.



Have a phone or tablet ready to scan the QR codes. If possible, have more than one device available, especially if you have a larger group.

## 3. Introduce the Concept of Emotions and Emojis



Briefly explain the purpose of the activity: to explore how different images can make us feel and learn that it's okay to have different interpretations of emotions.



Reinforce the idea that there are no "right" or "wrong" answers; emotions are personal and can vary from person to person.

# STEPS DURING THE ACTIVITY

## 1. Pick a Card and Discuss the Image



Invite each child to pick a card from the pile. Encourage them to look closely at the image and think about how it makes them feel.



Facilitate a group discussion by asking open-ended questions like:

WHAT DO YOU THINK  
IS HAPPENING IN  
THIS PICTURE?

HOW DOES THIS PICTURE  
MAKE YOU FEEL?

WHAT KIND OF STORY  
COULD THIS PICTURE TELL?



Encourage children to express a range of feelings, reinforcing that it's okay for one image to evoke different emotions.

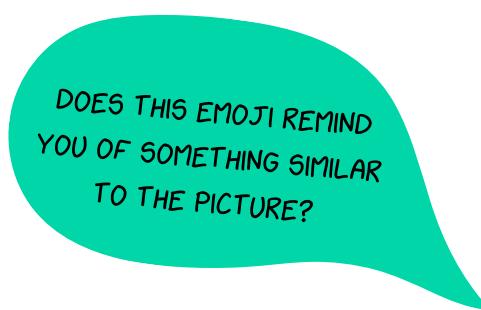
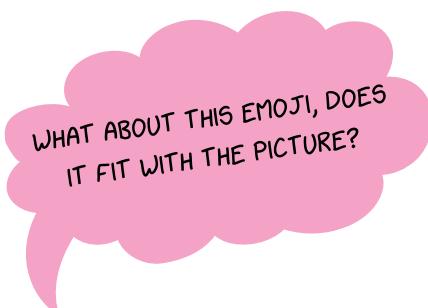
## 2. Choose an Emoji



Ask each child to think about which emoji might best represent how they feel about the image on their card.



If needed, provide a sample sheet of different emojis to help them choose. Prompt them to explain why they chose that emoji by asking questions like:



Let them know that sometimes an image can fit multiple emotions, and they should feel free to select any emoji that resonates with them.

## 3. Scan the QR Code



Help the children scan the QR code on their chosen card with the phone or tablet.



When the emoji suggestions appear on the screen, ask the child to check if their chosen emoji is one of the suggested ones. If not, remind them that emotions are personal, and it's okay to have their own interpretation.



If the "?" emoji appears, explain that this symbol means the image could evoke any emotion and that the card is open to everyone's individual feelings.

## 4. Group Reflection and Sharing



After each child has scanned their QR code, encourage a short group reflection where they can share their experiences. Ask questions like:

DID ANYONE HAVE A DIFFERENT EMOJI IN MIND FOR THIS PICTURE?

DID ANYONE ELSE FEEL SOMETHING DIFFERENT WHEN LOOKING AT THIS CARD?

WHAT WAS SURPRISING ABOUT SEEING OTHER POSSIBLE EMOJIS FOR YOUR CARD?



Use this time to reinforce the idea that emotions can vary and that it's normal for each person to experience different feelings from the same image.

# EXTRA ACTIVITIES

## Emotion Charades



After choosing an emoji for their card, children can act out the emotion without saying which one they picked. The other children can guess the emotion they are representing. This reinforces emotional awareness and expressive skills.

## Emoji Storytelling



Have the children create a short story based on the image on their card and the emoji they chose. Encourage them to imagine why the character in the image might feel that way and what might happen next.

## Emotion Art Activity



Ask the children to draw a picture of their own that could evoke an emotion, then share it with the group and see which emojis others associate with it.

## Tips for Teachers and Volunteers



**Encourage Open Discussion:** Reinforce that all emotions are valid and that it's okay for different people to feel different things when looking at the same image.



**Validate All Responses:** Children might feel hesitant if their chosen emoji doesn't appear in the QR scan results. Remind them that their feelings are unique and important, even if they differ from the suggestions.



**Help with QR Scanning:** Young children may need assistance with scanning QR codes, so be ready to help them hold the device steady and guide them through the process.



**Use for Emotional Check-Ins:** This activity can also be used at the start of the day to check in on how children are feeling. Have them choose an emoji card that matches their mood, fostering an open conversation about emotions from the beginning of the day.



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