# Making Expressions!

## Domain IIb: Recognizing Facial Expression

**GOAL:** The goal of *Making Expressions* is to teach the child to discriminate between five basic facial expressions (happy, sad, angry, surprised, & disgusted). During this activity, the child will learn to piece the features of a face together to create a specific facial expression.

**OBJECTIVE:** The child will be able to arrange the eyes and mouth to create specific facial expressions. Furthermore, the child will be practicing where to place individual facial features to create a face (e.g.: the eyes are placed above the nose, which is above the mouth).

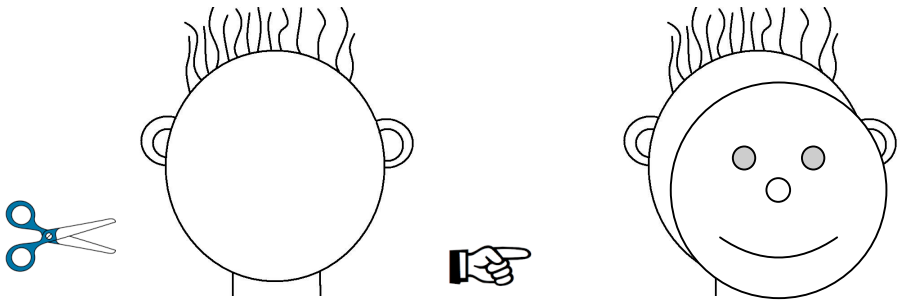
**MATERIALS:**

- Scissors
- Glue
- Printable face pieces (mouths and eyes for all 5 expressions)

**PROCEDURE:**

**Step 1: Cut Out Blank Face Template**

Cut out the blank face template. Once the face is cut out, have the child point to where the eyes would be, where the nose would be, and where the mouth would be.



**Step 2: Cut & Discuss**

Print out all the "*cut-out facial expressions*". Have the child help cut out the different features. For each page of cut-outs discuss with your child what makes a particular expression.

E.g. When cutting out the happy mouths discuss with your child "what makes a mouth look happy?" The discussion might involve laying out all the happy mouths and pointing out similarities (i.e.: lips curved upward, teeth showing). Also, you might have children practice a happy mouth themselves or you may show them your happy mouth. Ask the child questions about the emotion; such as, "what would make you happy?"

Engage in this type of discussion for both the mouths and the eyes of each type of facial expression.

**Step 3: Making the expressions**

Once all the facial features have been cut out and discussed, the child can start to make faces. Use the blank template face as a board upon which to lay the face pieces. Have the child create a different face for each type of the 5 expressions. At first, it is best to let the child free play. The child can continue to create a variety of different faces, experimenting with the different pieces. Once the child has mastered the different facial expressions, allow them to glue down their favourite face pieces onto the template. The child may want to have several blank templates printed off, so they can glue together a few different faces.

There is no single correct way to put the features together as long as it resembles the expression you are looking for. Be vocal throughout the activity. For example, "You're right, that is a happy mouth, but those eyes look surprised to me. See how I look when I'm surprised?" Demonstrate the desired expression. Ask, "How do you look when you're surprised? Our eyes when we make surprised faces look like those eyes. Now let's make happy faces and find eyes that match our eyes." If the child doesn't model face expressions for you, just keep modeling them yourself.

**HELPFUL HINT**

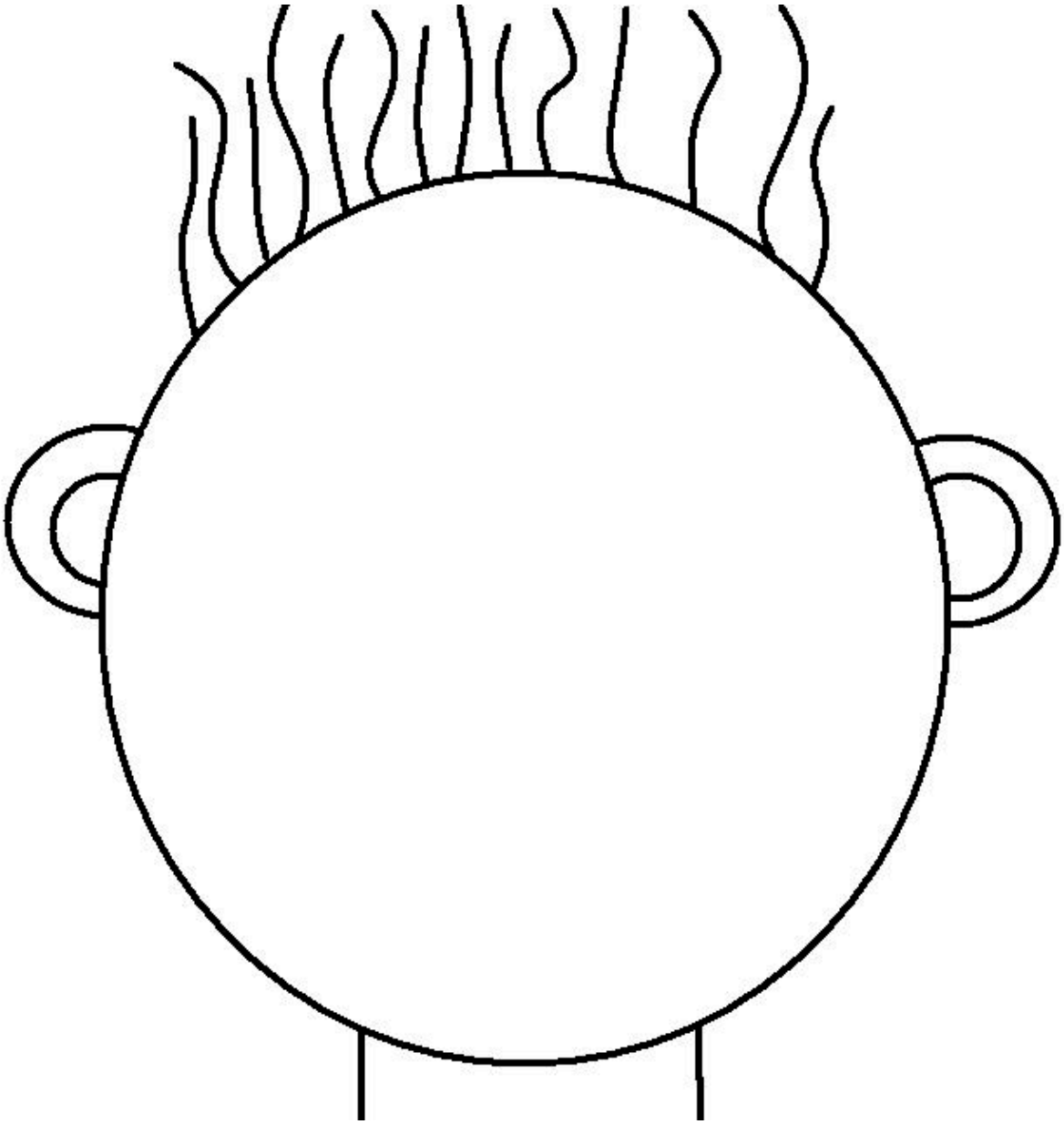
When modeling face expressions with the child, it is often a good idea to use a mirror. The child will be able to see his or her own face change when making the various expressions.

## *BONUS: MASTERY*

Using a digital camera, you can take photos of you and your child modeling the different facial expressions. Print these images off and cut out the eyes and mouths. The child can thus add their own facial features to the collection of face pieces we've provided.

# Making Expressions!

## Blank Face Template

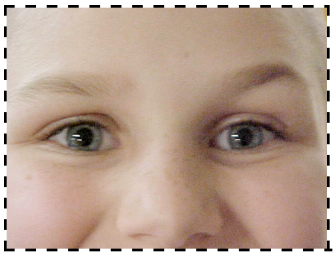
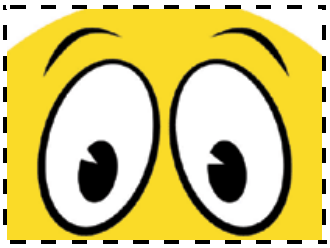
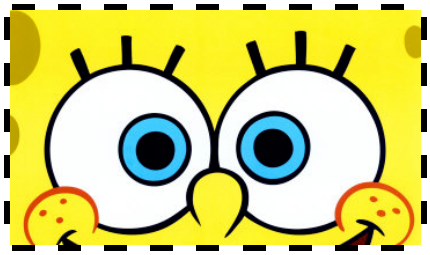


# Making Expressions!

## Cut-out Facial Expression: Happy Mouths

# Making Expressions!

## Cut-out Facial Expression: Happy Eyes

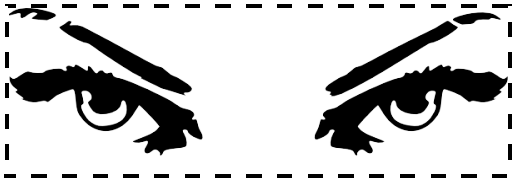




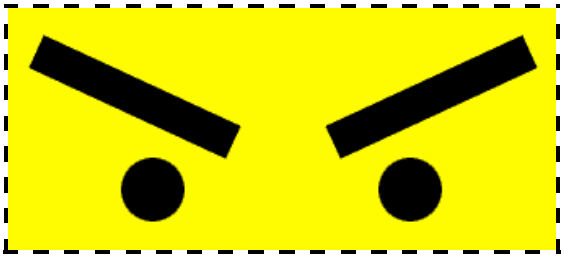
# Making Expressions!

## Cut-out Facial Expression: Angry Mouth

# Making Expressions!

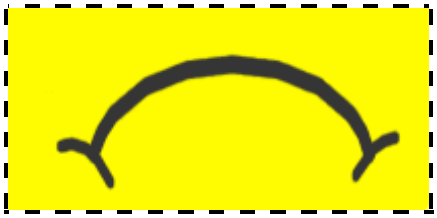
## Cut-out Facial Expression: Angry Eyes





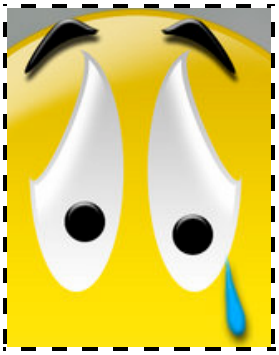
# Making Expressions!

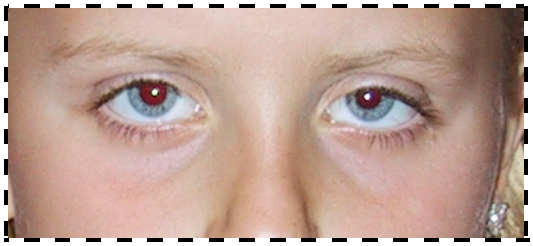
## Cut-out Facial Expression: Sad Mouths



# Making Expressions!

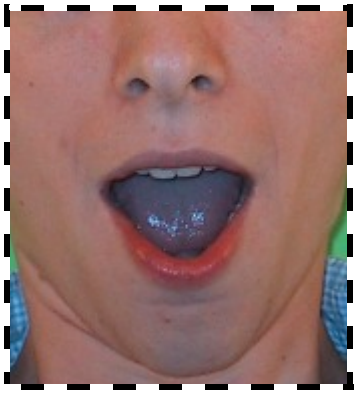
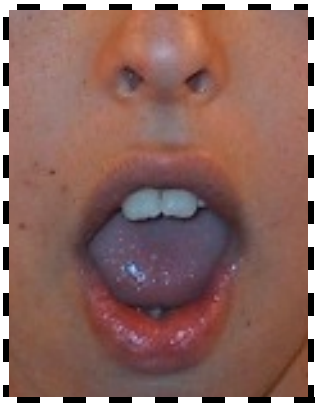
## Cut-out Facial Expression: Sad Eyes

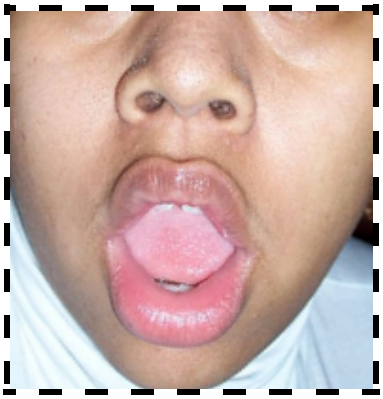




# Making Expressions!

## Cut-out Facial Expression: Surprised Mouth



# Making Expressions!

## Cut-out Facial Expression: Surprised Eyes

# Making Expressions!

## Cut-out Facial Expression: Disgusted Mouth

# Making Expressions!

## Cut-out Facial Expression: Disgusted Eyes