Trading Faces

Domain IIa & IIb: Recognizing Facial Identity and Expression

**GOAL:** The goal of this activity is to teach the child identity recognition and how to discriminate among different facial expressions.

**OBJECTIVE:** The child will explore aspects of facial identity and expression through masks. They will “try on” different identities and expressions by exchanging masks with the facilitator and/or other children. They will discover how individual face parts, configuration, and overall expression contribute to a person’s identity. They will also learn how the actions of the muscles of the face give rise to facial expressions which tell us how a person is feeling. The mask activities will facilitate recognition of the identities of celebrities and animal faces as well as identification of the following 8 expressions: Happy, Sad, Disgusted, Angry, Surprised, Excited, Fear, and Neutral. This activity can be done one-to-one or in a group.

**MATERIALS:**
- Printable Mask Sets
  - Set 1 - 8 Identity Masks (Celebrity Faces)
  - Set 2 - 8 Expression Masks (Emotional Expression Faces)
  - Set 3 - 7 Animal Masks (Animal Faces)
- 1 Blank Mask Template (optional)
- Scissors
- Large popsicle sticks or elastic string
- Instructions for papier-mâché masks (optional)

**PROCEDURE:**

**Step 1: Print & Cut**

With the child, choose the mask set(s) you would like to print first and then cut them out. Printing on heavier paper such as card stock will make stronger masks. Laminating is a good option for those who would like to re-use their masks. Use a large popsicle
stick (or something similar) to attach to the back of the masks so that the masks can be held up to your face. Alternatively, you can attach an elastic string (measured to fit your head size) to either side of the masks.

Optional: Create your own identity and expression masks! You can either, print and decorate masks using the blank mask template or if you are rally ambitious you can papier-mâché masks (instructions are included below) Use a variety of materials (e.g. tissue, paint, feathers, pipe cleaners, sparkles, etc.) to create identities and convey different emotional expressions. Expressions can be created for people, monsters, animals, imaginary creatures, robots etc....it’s up to your imagination!

Step 2.: Trade Faces!

First, review the identities or expressions of the chosen mask set and use this opportunity to engage in discussion relevant to the mask set. For “Identity”, you could ask the child what they think makes up someone’s facial identity. The face bones, face muscles, individual face parts and their configuration – i.e. the distance between eyes, nose, and mouth contribute to an overall expression and a facial identity.

For “Expression”, you could ask how they think facial expressions are made. The action of the face muscles gives rise to different expressions which tell other people about how you are feeling inside without having to use words.

Facilitator and child can feel the structure of their own faces with their hands and also see if they can tell which muscles in their face are working and what they are doing when they smile, frown etc.

Each person will choose a mask from the given set and hold it to their face (or put it on). The tutor will ask the child if they can identify the emotional expression or name the identity of the mask they are wearing. The facilitator, in turn, will identify the emotional expression or name the identity of the mask the child is wearing. See how it feels to “try on” different identities and expressions. Now, trade masks and repeat! This helps to reinforce the concepts. Each person then chooses a different mask from the set and repeats the exercise. Try all the mask sets or mix and match for an added challenge!
Set 1

Identity Masks
(Celebrity Faces)
Cut along dotted lines

Marilyn Monroe
Cut along dotted lines

Raven Simone
Cut along dotted lines

Elvis Presley
Cut along dotted lines

Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp)
Cut along dotted lines

Brad Pitt
Hannah Montana (Miley Cyrus)

Cut along dotted lines
Set 2

Expression Masks
(Emotional Expression Faces)
Cut along dotted lines
Happy
Mark Cut along dotted lines

Disgust
Cut along dotted lines

Neutral
✂ Cut along dotted lines

Sad
Cut along dotted lines

Excited
Set 3

Animal Masks
(Animal Faces)
Cut along dotted lines

Leopard
Cut along dotted lines

Frog
Cut along dotted lines

Chimpanzee
Cut along dotted lines

Mouse
Cut along dotted lines

Owl
Cut along dotted lines

Tiger
Cut along dotted lines
Papier-mâché Masks
(Instructions)
Materials:

- 2 cups of flour
- A pinch of salt
- 2 cups of water
- 2 tbsp of white glue
- Mixing bowl
- Whisk
- Form material
- Newspaper
- Tape
- Scissors
- Decorating supplies

Step 1:

Tear the newspaper (along the long grain) into long strips. Create short strips by cutting some of the long strips.

Step 2:

Combine flour, water, salt, and glue in a mixing bowl. Mix ingredients until the consistency of the paste is like a thick soup.
Step 3:

Find or make a form. Use your imagination! Blown up balloons, paper plates and cups, old Halloween masks, and margarine tubs make great forms. For easy removal, you can apply dish soap or petroleum jelly to forms that you intend to remove from the papier-mâché after it has dried. Forms made from objects like paper plates and cups can be made part of the mask and do not need to be removed.

Step 4:

Dip the strips or squares in your paste (make sure they are saturated). Smooth the strips on to your form, carefully smoothing out bubbles and wrinkles with your fingers. Keep layering the papier-mâché until you feel it is enough (4-6 layers). You can let it dry and if spots feel weak or soft you can always add more layers.
Step 5:
Let it Dry! The papier-mâché mask should be completely dry before trying to separate it from a form. A balloon can simply be popped. Trim any rough edges with scissors before decorating.

Step 6:
Decorate! Use just about any water based paint such as ceramic paints or tempera paints to begin painting the face of the mask. You can use beads, feathers, fur, leather buttons, foil, bones sequins, raffia yarn or whatever your imagination comes up with. To hold a mask up to your face, you can apply a large popsicle stick to the inside of one side of the mask. To wear a mask you can attach elastic string to both sides of the mask.

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