

# Emoji Dice



## MATERIALS

### FOR STUDENT: (one per student unless otherwise noted)

- FloraCraft® Make It: Fun® Foam Blocks, cut from large foam block (see "FOR TEACHER") to 2" x 2" x 2"
- 1 1/2" x 9" yellow cardstock (for 6 circles)
- Washable black fine line marker
- Glue stick
- Paper plate

### FOR TEACHER:

- FloraCraft® Make It: Fun® Foam Block, 1 15/16" x 11 7/8 x 17 7/8" (approx. 12" x 18" x 2" thick) (can get approx. 54 of the 2" dice from one foam block)
- Yellow cardstock paper (can get 35 - 40 circles per 9" x 12" sheet)
- Hot melt glue gun (for teacher only)
- Serrated knife
- 1 1/2" diameter circle punch
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Cutting mat or stack of newspapers
- Paper towels

## TEACHER PREPARATION

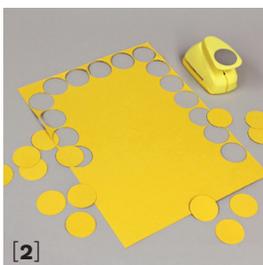
*Note: Read through all instructions first and check out the TIPS! You may be tempted to skip having the students compress the edges of the foam blocks, but the reason for doing so, is to strengthen them for play and to make them tumble when rolling them like dice. Also, have a glue gun plugged in and ready to use (ideally set on low temperature) and out of student reach. This can give you immediate adhesion when in a hurry to help students. Be sure glue has cooled before returning project to students (takes a minute or so.) Last, it is suggested that you show your finished project samples only when you want to explain something, or students tend to work ahead by seeing and copying.*

**[1]** Use a ruler and a pencil to measure and make small marks as ruler guides for the 2" squares on the foam block. (Pencil will show on the foam if you go over the mark a couple of times. However, it's not necessary to draw the entire line - just measure and mark in a couple of places as a guide for placing the ruler. Then, on a cutting mat or stack of newspapers, use a serrated knife against the edge of the ruler to cut the foam block with several passes of the knife for each cut.

**[2]** Use a 1 1/2" diameter punch to punch out six yellow cardstock circles per student.

**[3]** On the board (or large poster) draw six or more large faces with simple expressions that you would like the students to use.

**[4]** Before students arrive place one foam block, six yellow circles and a black fine line marker onto each paper plate. Set the plate and the glue stick at each student's place.



## SOCIAL STUDIES GRADE LEVEL EARLY CHILDHOOD – PRE K

### COMPLETION TIME

- 30 minutes



### OBJECTIVES

Students learn:

- That everyone has feelings
- That physical features change according to the specific emotion
- How to discuss their feelings
- Listening and following instructions

### STANDARDS

- Describe surroundings
- Develop spatial understanding, perspectives and personal connections to the world
- Analyze and protect rights, roles and responsibilities of citizens
- Develop an understanding of how people view, construct and interpret history

### LESSON INTRODUCTION

• Explain to students that everyone has feelings and emotions that we can see on people's faces. Make several faces and ask students how they think you are feeling (happy, sad, angry). Ask if they have ever seen the yellow face icons on cell phone messages. Explain and demonstrate that they will be making blocks with similar face icons that they can "roll" like dice to see which faces are up. Then they may say which emotions those faces are expressing. Also, if they'd like, they may share with their classmates about a time that they felt similarly.

• Explain that they should follow along, one step at a time and that each student will be making a block, but all doing it together.



# INSTRUCTIONS

**[1]** Ask the students to keep all pieces on their paper plates. Demonstrate and have students compress the edges of their foam blocks as follows: Place the foam block edge on the table and press down, rocking it back and forth a little. Then rotate the block to the next edge, pressing it down and rocking. Continue rotating until all four edges have been compressed. Turn the block a quarter turn and compress those four edges, as well.



**[2]** Show students the large examples of icons, discussing and asking questions about the emotions. (Photo example shows: Happy, sad, angry/mad, surprised, sleepy and frustrated or puzzled.) Specifically discuss how the emotions change with the angle of the eyebrows and the curve of the mouth.

Demonstrate and have students take one yellow circle off the plate at a time, and copy (or draw their own) icon. (You might want to have the whole class working on the same emotion at the same time, for discussion purposes.)



**[3]** Demonstrate and have students remove glue stick cap and rotate bottom to raise glue a little (about 1/4" but no higher or it can break off). Then show them how to use one hand to hold the foam block on the paper plate, while holding the glue stick with the other hand. Press the glue stick onto the foam surface and "draw" a circle of glue. Encourage them to press fairly hard so that the glue goes into the porous foam and then builds up on the surface. Remind them to work on their plate so that the glue doesn't get on their desk. Repeat with all the circles.

(Note: After students have finished, you or your helpers may want to check to be sure circles have adhered around the edges, since that's where separation most easily occurs.)



**[4]** As students are finishing, if you intend to eventually send the foam dice home with the students, go to each student and lightly write their name (small) on the die. (If you are keeping the dice for classroom use, names are not necessary.) Depending on time, you may decide to let the students play with the dice.

## MODIFICATIONS

### To simplify project:

- Pre draw faces, but still include significant discussion.
- Pre compress foam dice so that they are ready to go.
- Work in small groups with a helper in each group. Have the students take turns gluing so that one can hold the foam while another applies glue and sets the paper circles in place.

### To expand project:

- Have students draw their own ideas of how faces would look showing specific emotions.
- Find photos of people who display each of the emotions.
- Make jumbo 4" dice by using a glue stick to stack two layers of foam and cut 4" foam cubes and 3 1/2" diameter yellow circles. (Trace a circle template and cut out with scissors.)

### For multiple ages:

- Younger and older students work side-by-side, making their own dice, with more challenging-to-express emotions for the older students.
- Have older students research on a cell phone, other icons.

## ADDITIONAL IDEAS

- Throughout the year, add additional icons, using different colors of paper.
- To display, join them with toothpicks inserted into the edges to build height. (May need to toothpick-connect to a foam base for stability.)
- Design other themes for foam dice.
- Use for Language Arts, All About Me unit.



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## TIPS

- Keep the blade perpendicular to the table so that the foam edges are straight. Score lightly first and then press more firmly to cut deeper with several passes of the knife.
- When using a punch, turn it over to allow you to see where you're placing the punch on the paper. This lets you conserve paper by making circles very close together, and not accidentally punching off the edge of the paper because you can't see where it's punching.
- A punch has a limited reach and cannot get into the center of a sheet of paper. Punch circles all around the outside. Then, use scissors to trim off excess paper and punch all around the outside again. Continue working your way to the center.
- Have extras of foam cubes, yellow circles and paper plates.
- Use a smart phone to find more face icons that are appropriate and can be simplified to add to your board or chart.
- If students say they don't like what they've drawn and want to start over, have them turn over their circle and use their pencil to draw it first. Then when satisfied, they can trace over their lines with marker.
- Have paper towels ready to distribute to any messy fingers.

## REFERENCES

*The Way I Feel* by Janan Cain  
*Hurty Feelings* by Helen Lester  
*Happy, Sad, Jealous, Mad* by Jo Browning-Wroe  
*Feelings To Share From A To Z* by Todd & Peggy Snow