## Promoting Social Emotional Development Through Books

### Happy Hippo, Angry Duck: A book of moods

By Sandra Boynton

Happy Hippo, Angry Duck is a hilarious story about the wide range of emotions and feelings of clever animal characters. Young readers are sure to giggle as interactive text asks them if they are "grumpy as a moose or excited as a dog?" Maybe they're "worried as a rabbit or contented as a frog?" (Ages 1-3)

### Introducing this book to young children:

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<td>Before reading this book with young children, have a discussion about emotions. You can find pictures in magazines or print out different feeling faces. Images of feeling faces are also available on the <a href="#">CSEFEL website</a>. As you show each feeling face, encourage the children to identify the emotion. Remember, begin with a few basic emotions (happy, sad, mad) and add more as children become more familiar.</td>
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<td>As you introduce the book and title, point to the faces of Hippo and Duck. Discuss how each of them is feeling. Have children practice making happy and angry faces. If you are reading to a small group of toddlers, you can give each a small, plastic mirror so they can see their faces as they practice the emotions.</td>
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<td>After reading the story, sing this “If you are happy...” about emotions. This simplified version will allow even the youngest child to sing all the words and understand the emotions and expressions.</td>
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**If you're happy, happy, happy** [Smile and put your index fingers on your cheeks.]  
Clap your hands. [Clap your hands.]  
If you're happy, happy, happy, clap your hands.  
If you're happy, happy, happy, clap your hands, clap your hands.  
If you're happy, happy, happy, clap your hands.  
If you're happy, happy, happy, clap your hands, clap your hands.  
If you're angry, angry, angry [Make an angry face and cross your arms over your chest.]  
Stomp your feet. [Stomp your feet.]  
If you're angry, angry, angry, stomp your feet.  
If you're angry, angry, angry, stomp your feet, stomp your feet.  
If you're angry, angry, angry, stomp your feet.  
If you're scared, scared, scared [Make a scared face and place your hands on your cheeks.]  
Say, "Oh no!" [Say, "Oh no!"]  
If you're scared, scared, scared, say, "Oh no!"  
If you're scared, scared, scared, say, "Oh no!" Say, "Oh no!"  
If you're scared, scared, scared, say, "Oh no!"
Repeated readings of the same book provides opportunities for toddlers to develop a sense of competence and confidence. Children learn to point at and label pictures, turn pages, discuss the story, and make predictions of what will happen next, while learning new words and relating the story to their own experiences. Read *Happy Hippo, Angry Duck* for several days in a row and use some of the ideas, activities, and teaching opportunities listed below to enhance social and emotional skills.

**GELDS Activity Spotlight**

**Feelings Check in Chart:** As the children are arrive school, have them “check-in” by telling you how they feel using a chart. Add a picture of each child and their name to a craft stick. When children arrive, help them place their stick in the pocket showing how they feel. You can start with a few feelings and add more as you discuss each emotion. **SED2.1a**

**Classroom Feeling Book:** Make a feelings book using pictures of the children in your class. Take a photograph of each child making a feeling face; happy, sad, angry, etc. Add each photo to a file folder or thick paper, punch holes and string the pages together to create a book. For older children, ask what makes them feel happy or other emotions and on the page with their picture add the caption “I am happy when…..” You could also take pictures of children throughout the day as they show different emotions. For example, you might take a picture of a child looking sad or disappointed while standing in front of the window on a rainy day and add the caption, “I am sad when it rains, and I can’t play on the playground.” **SED2.1b**

**Emotions Puzzles:** Print a full-size feeling faces or pictures of children in your class as they experience different emotions. Adhere each on a file folder or sturdy paper and cut into 2, 3 or 4 large pieces to create a puzzle. You can laminate or cover with contact paper for durability. Place each in a bag or a small container. During center time, talk with children about each emotion as they put together the puzzles. **APL1.1c**

**Focus on Family**

As you’re getting ready, or standing near a mirror, encourage your child to make faces in the mirror. You could also give your child a small plastic mirror. You can prompt them with questions like, “Can you make a sad face?” “Can you make your eyes and mouth look mad?” Model the faces with your child. **SED2.1a**

Using a paper towel tube, put one end to your child’s ear and talk softly into the other end. Say things such as, “Hello happy girl!” or “Somebody is getting hungry or sleepy.” **SED2.0a**