

<b>Resource:</b> 'Your Face'	
<b>Explanation</b> <p>You can say a thousand words without speaking and often non-verbal communication can be more effective than words, especially with young children. It is important that you use your face to encourage, warn, support and engage the children in your setting. It is equally important that you have control of your expressions and are aware of the emotions you are conveying to the children.</p> <p>By using expression, you can send signals that help to reinforce positive behaviour. This is not only an effective strategy to manage behaviour, it is also a mode of communication that improves the relationship between practitioner/teacher and child by allowing non-verbal understanding.</p> <p>Eye contact is a vital form of communication – practitioners/teachers who make eye contact open the flow of communication and convey interest, concern, warmth and credibility.</p>	
<b>Handy Hints</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children in your setting who speak EAL (English as an Additional Language) rely heavily on your facial expressions to 'read' a situation. With these children, you may want to over-emphasize and simplify instructions to support their understanding.</li> <li>• Use lots of face cream! As a teacher, you will be using your face more so than in other professions (bar actors), and you want to try to prevent those crow's feet for as long as you can.</li> <li>• Stand in front of a mirror and practise facial expressions you use in the class to warn, discipline and praise children. Do you think that you clearly convey the emotion you are trying to?</li> <li>• Remember that facial expressions are related to emotions and so can quite often be involuntary – try to remember this. It is important that you are in control of your expressions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Advantages</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By using facial expressions, you can protect your voice which can easily become strained and over worked in an educational setting.</li> <li>• By using your face instead of your voice you can maintain a quieter, calmer setting.</li> <li>• This is a strategy that needs no resourcing and can be very effective.</li> <li>• The children learn to read your facial expressions and will respond more quickly to them the more you use them.</li> <li>• Smiling is a vital form of non-verbal communication that transmits happiness, approval, warmth, friendliness and affiliation.</li> </ul>	<b>Examples of Emotions that Can Be Conveyed Through Facial Expressions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anger</li> <li>• Confusion</li> <li>• Excitement</li> <li>• Happiness</li> <li>• Sadness</li> <li>• Pride</li> <li>• Contempt</li> <li>• Frustration</li> <li>• Surprise</li> <li>• Worry</li> <li>• Disappointment</li> </ul>
<b>Questions for Consideration</b> <p>Next time a child in your setting disturbs teaching with low-level disruptive behaviour, how would you manage this – using your voice as little as possible?</p> <p>What do you look like when you are trying to warn and praise a child?</p>	
<b>Linked Resources</b> <p><b>Your Voice</b> – See page 11  <b>Your Behaviour</b> – See page 8  <b>Body Language</b> – See page 10</p>	