

# FOUNDATIONS PROGRAMME



## **SETTING INFORMATION**

Nursery / ELC Name	Methven Primary Nursery
Local Authority	PKC
Lead Practitioner name, role & email address	Kirsteen Blackhall - (Senior Early Childhood Practitioner) name1@pkc.gov.uk
Second Lead / Contact name, role & email address	Angie Foley – (Early Childhood Practitioner) name2@pkc.gov.uk

#### FOUNDATION WORDS & LANGUAGE PLANNING

Please provide a statement to explain how you and your staff are developing an increasing awareness of Emotion Works Foundation Language, and what steps you've taken to incorporate it into your planning, environment and interactions with children.

## Supporting statement:

At Methven we use the Emotion Works Foundations Programme to teach our children how their 'emotions work' by using the language of the first 5 cogs. Through our everyday interactions, planned activities and our learning environment we are seeing our children starting to develop an understanding of what causes their emotions and how these events, feelings, thoughts and behaviours work together.

We are now systematically introducing 'emotion words' and we help our children identify events and 'triggers' that prompt these emotions. We do this in a variety of ways, for example:

- In small, targeted groups using emotion pebbles and emotion cards alongside the Emotion Works symbol
- Through our *Book of the Fortnight* as a stimulus with all our children
- As a simple 'fix it' resource with some especially our younger (Strong Start 2s) children

The 'fix it' resource particularly supports these children with emotions and experiences they struggle with e.g., **frustration** due to **sharing** and **taking turns** with peers

We have a *Regulation Station* where symbols to support the language of **emotional regulation** are displayed and we have Cogs up on the walls for staff to use as prompts and reminders when supporting the children to understand and discuss their feelings and behaviours.

We also have a *Daily Greetings* board where children decide how they would like to be greeted on entering the setting i.e., a high five, a wave, a smile, a hug or a fist pump (positive **emotion behaviours**). Some children choose not to have any greeting and this often opens up dialogue between staff, children and their parents about **triggers** (and other **influences**) that might be impacting how a child feels or is behaving, for example, a parent might say, "Oh he is grumpy this morning because he wasn't allowed to play the I-pad before nursery" or "she is just desperate to get in for snack because she wouldn't eat breakfast this morning".

As well as having our symbols books in the book corner for children to access freely we have printed out and laminated duplicate symbols onto colour coded prompt cards for both children and staff to use whenever needed. To help organise the single symbols we've added numbers on the back to keep track of where they are and involve the children in locating and matching them up with where they are stored.

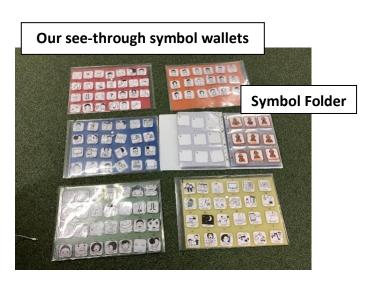
All these resources are easily accessible and act as prompts when engaging in planned and in-the-moment conversations.

The impact of us focussing on developing and teaching the foundation language of the Emotion Works Cogs is

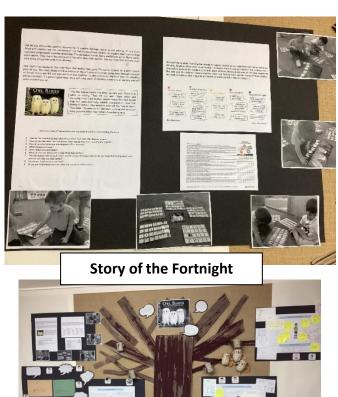
- Staff are becoming more proficient with referring to and using the symbol resources and are developing a greater awareness of Emotion Works Foundation Language themselves, resulting in...
- **Children** are developing their emotional literacy skills by developing emotional language, awareness and understanding

We now incorporate Emotion Works into our fortnightly planning and use the Foundation Language grid retrospectively to assess the language used within each planning block. This is then evaluated to show where our gaps in teaching emotional language and literacy are for future planning.

### Photo evidence







Emotion Works

## PRACTICE EVIDENCE

Over the next 3 pages please provide a brief supporting statement with photo evidence (or provide a link to an online post or video) showing 3 different examples of how you are using the Emotion Works Foundation Programme in your Early Learning setting. Please bear in mind, at Silver level we're looking for evidence of EW foundation language from across different cog concepts being incorporated into your activities and planning, not just the Emotion Word (orange cog) symbols and names.

The Words and Phrases Grid and the Vocabulary Planning Tool should help with this.

We'd love to see evidence of the symbol book in action more, and symbol prompts for using the language of Emotion Behaviours, Triggers, Body Sensations and Regulation Strategies more in evidence too.

## Supporting statement:

We are currently using the book 'Michael Recycle' by Ellie Bethel as our story of the fortnight. We read the story to all the children and then a few children looked through our symbol folder to choose symbols they thought might be appropriate for this book – the first 4 photos below show their selections of symbols from across the different cog concepts. Lots of discussion took place at this stage with questions from both the staff member and the children about why Michael Recycle might be grumpy or mad and how our children themselves might feel. This led on to discussions around being helpful and responsible at home and nursery by tidying up their toys and resources.

More children then became involved and further discussions took place around behaviours, triggers, body feelings etc. One child said, "The town looked yucky and not healthy. The people could get sick from the mess and germs. It wasn't healthy". The staff member and the child then discussed that being yucky was a feeling (emotion) word and that the fact that the people could get sick from the germs was a trigger or reason why we might feel yucky. Another child said, "The people might be excited, and they might jump up and down and shout because they are happy". A little bit of problem solving/discussions took place, and it was decided that cheering and jumping were a way of showing (a behaviour) for feeling happy and excited.

This was all recorded in our Floor Book and on our Foundation Words & Phrases grid, and these will be added to further by staff when more children want to contribute. The book will continue to be read and discussed daily with groups of children and accessible for all our children to look at independently alongside the symbol prompts for a few weeks.

#### Photo evidence (up to 6 photos) or provide url link to evidence shared elsewhere











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## Supporting statement:

We have our 'Regulation Station' (photos already submitted for our Bronze award) which is a space for children to access independently or with a friend or adult if they need time or space to regulate their emotions, or just some time to themselves.

We have our Symbol Books in our story corner for children to look at and use to support what they want to talk about any time they wish.

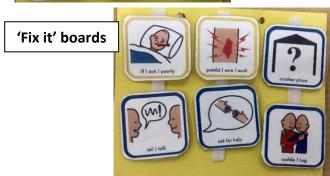
We also have our Symbol Folder which adults use with children, and we have also further copied and laminated an extra set of symbols which are numbered and colour coded in see-through wallets which can be accessed by any child or adult for intentional and responsive purposes.

**For adult reference** - we have a wall display showing the first 5 cogs and also the 7 Cog Model poster as a visual prompt for staff and parents to help us keep the cogs in mind and support discussions and engagement around all the cogs.

## Photo evidence (up to 6 photos) or provide url link to evidence shared elsewhere









# Supporting statement:

# Pass the Parcel/charades 'Cogmas' game.

Over the Christmas period we played pass the parcel with a twist. The parcel that was passed around the circle contained some orange emotion word symbols and when the music stopped the child who had the parcel had to open it and look at the symbol while the other children closed their eyes.

When ready, the children opened their eyes and watched the child demonstrate the emotion for them to guess. The commentary and questioning from staff while the charade happened supported the naming of **emotion behaviours**/expressions and **emotion words** too. For example – "can you show us what you might do to show this feeling /emotion" and then to comment on the child's actions e.g. "jump up and down" or "scream and shout". As part of the game, children were also asked why they might feel this way (to help talk about **emotion triggers**) e.g. if they opened the parcel and they looked disappointed this might be because they didn't like what they received or already had the same thing already.

The Word grid below also shows that the game and resulting discussions covered 'feel better' regulation strategies and body sensations associated with feeling different emotions too.

## Photo evidence (up to 6 photos) or provide url link to any evidence shared elsewhere











