



Sorting Facial Expressions

Learning objective

To sort the Transporters characters into groups by comparing their facial expression.

Resources required

- For Level 1 – [Activity sheets – Sorting Facial Expressions 1.](#)
- For Level 2 – [Activity sheets – Sorting Facial Expressions 2.](#)
- For Level 3 – [Activity sheets – Sorting Facial Expressions 3.](#)
- Scissors and glue.
- Posting boxes and puppets (optional).

Activity

The child sorts pictures into separate groups by recognizing character and facial expression. This is the ideal time to name emotions and their associated facial expressions and to begin teaching relevant vocabulary. If the child already understands the vocabulary, you can begin talking about the Transporters character itself.

Instructions

- Print out the activity sheets you wish to use. Each activity sheet has a number of variations so you may wish to decide in advance which you are going to use and print just these. For each level, you need two types of picture which may be of different characters expressing the same emotion or the same character expressing different emotions. For example, Dan looking happy and Oliver looking happy or Nigel looking unfriendly or Nigel looking surprised.
- Cut out the pictures of the Transporters characters you have chosen to use.
- Stick an example of one of the picture types to the top of one of the blank ovals and an example of the other picture type to the top of the other oval. Show an example of each picture type to the child, naming the characters and/or the emotion.
- Ask the child to sort the pictures into the oval that has a matching picture.



Variations:

1. Create post boxes from old cereal packets or shoe boxes. Stick an example of one of the picture types on to one box and an example of the other picture type to the other box. As the child picks up a picture, ask them to post it into the box with the matching image.
2. Take two contrasting glove puppets and stick an example of one of the picture types on to one puppet and an example of the other picture type on to the other puppet. For children with sufficient language skills, explain that one puppet likes the first Transporters character or emotion and the second puppet likes the second character or emotion. The child must give the appropriate picture to the appropriate puppet.

Activity Levels

This activity is differentiated over three levels, by the number of characters offered and by the facial expression offered.

- Level 1 – Use two different Transporters characters, each showing a common facial expression.
- Level 2 – Use the same Transporters character with strongly contrasting expressions such as happy and sad.
- Level 3 – Use the same Transporters character with more visually similar expressions.

To increase the complexity of this activity further, print out two copies of the blank sorting grids so you have four ovals and ask the child to sort four different pictures.

Ability requirements relating to the activity levels

- Level 1 – The child needs to have simple matching skills and to be able to match two identical pictures.
- Level 2 – As above, plus the child must be aware of facial expressions and needs some basic recognition of what different facial expressions look like.



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- Level 3 – As above, plus the child needs more sophisticated recognition of what different facial expressions look like.