

Animal Dice

Construct these simple animal and emotion dice to open the door to limitless possibilities with storytelling, acting and vocabulary building. The only thing your child needs to provide to the craft? Her own imagination!

What You Need:

- Animal die template
- Emotion die template
- Scissors
- Tape
- White paper
- Printer
- Pencil



What You Do:

1. Help your child print out each template.
2. Let her use scissors to cut the dice out.
3. Have her follow the template instructions to fold the paper into the shape of a cube.
4. Help her use tape to secure the paper edges together.
5. Once the dice are ready, have your kindergartener roll the animal die and emotion die at the same time.
6. What did the dice land on? She should have one animal and one emotion.
7. Encourage her to create a story featuring the animal and the emotion selected. For example, *worried* and *bear* could result in a whimsical tale about Freddy the Bear who forgot to comb his hair, and now he's worried all his friends will notice how his fur sticks out in funny directions.
8. If she gets stumped -- some animal and emotion combinations are harder than others -- help out! Give your child a few plot points to inspire a new perspective on her story.
9. Try out a round of pretend play if you have a group of three or more people. In pretend play, each player rolls the dice. Whatever animal and emotion she gets, that's who she'll have to pretend to be for the duration of the game. As a worried bear, she can growl sadly as she moans about what's worrying her today.
10. To enhance storytelling, introduce sequencing to your child. With sequencing, your child will roll only the animal die first. Once she has her animal die, she'll roll the emotion die three times. Write down the three emotions on a sheet of paper. Then have your child tell a story, using "first," "then" and "last." Each sequencing word will be followed by the emotion she rolled. For example, first the bear was worried, then the bear was sad, and at last, the bear was happy. Your child will have to fill in the story that led the bear from worrying to being happy!
11. The dice can also be used as vocabulary building tools. Roll the emotion die, and then have a discussion with your child about what the emotion means. Is it a positive or a negative emotion? What other emotions are similar to it?
12. Keep exploring new ways to use the animal and emotion die! Which ways are your child's favorite?