



## The Way I Feel

By Janan Cain



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This story helps children learn words to describe how they are feeling.

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Early literacy experiences are so important for young children. When children read and explore books they start to learn important literacy skills and practice language development, even babies! Hearing language, even when they cannot understand it and are not able to talk back helps very young children learn the sounds, rhythms and other basic characteristics of language.

Children who are read to learn more words, are better able to figure out words they don't know and may even do better in school. Books are also a great way for children to learn about and develop social emotional skills. Children practice waiting to turn the pages, explore different emotions and learn new ways to express themselves. Early reading experiences also teach children to value reading!

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### BEFORE READING:

- Show your child the front of the book and encourage them to explore it. They may want to hold it, turn the pages, or even taste it!
- Point to the cover picture and ask your child what they think the girl is feeling.

### WHILE READING:

- Stop if there is something you or your child would like to talk about.
- Ask questions so they can connect what is happening in the book to things they already know about.  
Try some of these ideas:
  - ⇒What do you think he/she is feeling?
  - ⇒Validate the emotions of the characters in the story: "She is trying so hard to tie her shoe and it just won't work. She is so frustrated!"
- Ask your child to point out what they see. Name and identify the pictures.
  - ⇒Look at that red truck!
  - ⇒Tell me about what she is doing.

**AFTER READING:**

Spend some time talking about the story. Help your child understand some of the emotions in the books, like anger Ask:

- ⇒ How are you feeling?
- ⇒ What does it look like when you are angry? What does your face look like? What does your body look like? (Repeat using new emotions like excited, scared or happy).
- ⇒ Help teach your child ways to deal with tough emotions like anger. Reassure them that all emotions are ok to feel, and teach them way to behave in appropriate ways.

Read this book several times to the children. Hearing the same story again and again helps them learn new words and understand the ideas they hear better. Each day, pick a different activity to do with the children after reading “The Way I Feel”.

**Art and Music:**

Draw your feelings. Let your child explore with crayons, markers, colored pencils and ask them to draw things that make them happy, sad, frustrated, silly or scared.

**Movement:**

Play “Feelings Charades.” Help your child pick an emotion from the book and act it out. As they get older, challenge your child to guess the emotion just from your actions.

**Pretend Play:**

Have a feelings puppet show. Make puppets out of lunch bags and give each bag an emotion from the book (angry, sad, happy, disappointed, etc.). Choose a character and help your children act out that emotion while you play. Leave the puppets out and encourage your child to use their puppet to help express their emotions anytime they feel them.

**Social Emotional:**

Give your child permission for all of their emotions, even the tough ones like anger. Help them practice using words to describe how they feel. Show your child the value of expressing your emotions with words by expressing your own. Share a time when you felt angry and what you did about it.

