

# Book Nook

## EDWARD THE EMU

SHEENA KNOWLES

Illustrated by  
ROD CLEMENT



**Friendship skills** – identifying and celebrating differences  
**Emotions** – jealousy, ennui, self-esteem, contentment, empathy

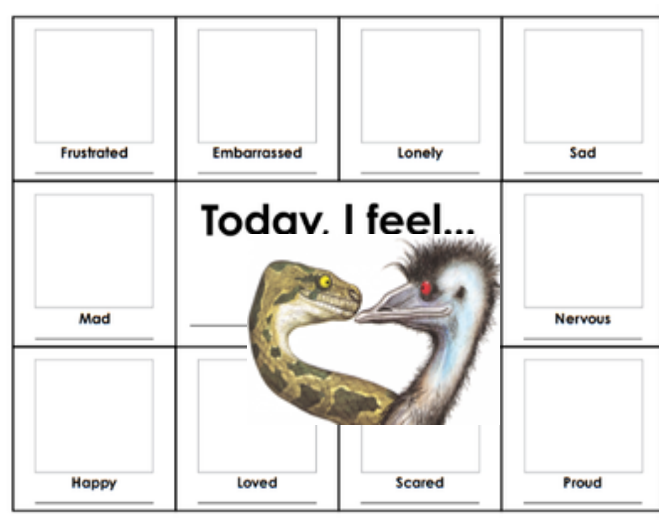
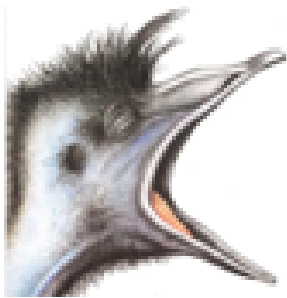
For our Spring Book Nook, we are showcasing **Edward the Emu** by Sheena Knowles, Illustrated by Rod Clement.

- **Emotional Literacy** – Edward lives in a Zoo. He is currently alone in his 'enclosure', so takes it upon himself to befriend the other animals. To do so, he feels he needs to 'be' them, and takes on persona, characteristics, and strengths of the other animals, only to find ridicule, challenges and an empty feeling from not being himself.
- Edward also experiences more complex emotions like jealousy, envy, ennui (particularly 'current' following the release of Inside Out 2), with the very real insinuation that everything else must be better than what he has or who he is.
- The very ending is testament to being yourself and finding friends who understand you for you.
- ***As a transition activity, following the reading of Edward the Emu, a child could invite another child to walk/skip/wriggle/jump to the next activity with them.***

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The emotional check in sheet can be a table top experience for self reflection. With a stand holding a mirror, and the individual faces cut for comparison, it could be extended to include Edward in a variety of emotional poses!



- A general group discussion regarding each effort Edward puts into trying to be another animal, may prompt us to consider what it feels like to have a strong 'self-esteem', and feeling content in ourselves. This is a more complex feeling, and you could introduce the phrase **"The grass is greener on the other side"**. A graph concept of YES I think the grass is Greener on the Other Side or NO I don't think the grass is greener on the other side could be an extension from literacy into maths.
- **Using a 'Question of the Week' try some of the following provocations:**
  1. "When have you felt proud of yourself?"
  2. "Have you ever felt like you have nothing to do?"
  3. "How do you know when you have been understood?"
  4. "Have you ever wished you had something someone else had?"

***Any of these may be table conversation starters at mealtimes and promoted for families to use at home. .***

- **Friendship Skills - Would Edward have had more fun if he:**
- “Asked to play with the other animals?” (instead of trying to be them?)
- “Invited other animals into his home?” (to see it through their eyes)
- “Complimented the other animals for their skills” (and acknowledged his own).
- Using the various peer mediated skills resources will benefit these discussions. The concept of entering play, organising play, playing with others, making choices within play, taking turns, acknowledging and complimenting others are all beneficial in establishing connections.

## Get Attention



## Share



## Give a Play Idea



## Share Request



## Give a Compliment



Let your friend know that he is doing a good job.

And follow up with Edwina the Emu - you're in for a treat!