

# Reading Expressions with Emoticon Sticks

These sticks can be used in several ways to get the kids motivated to practice reading with expression. Here are some ways I use them:

**Game:** split the class in two teams. Have each team member take turns choosing an emoticon stick. These can be used while reading their sight word sentences or any fictional book you're studying or reading in class. Group 1's player reads a sentence out loud using an expression that matches the expression on the emoticon stick. Group 2 tries to identify the emotion and if the group identifies the emotion correctly - they get a point and as a result group 1 earns 2 points for correctly reading with expression. They continue this until one group earns 20 points!

**Sight Word Sentences:** I use this activity when reading our simple sight word sentences during literacy centers. The kids LOVE this activity. While they work in groups, I use my Sight Word Sentence Posters in groups as kids take turns reading the sentences. The first group member will choose an emoticon stick at random, next they will read the first sentence in the booklet in a tone that matches the emoticon's expression (no matter what the sentence says). For example, if the sentence reads "The boy eats his lunch." and they choose an angry emoticon stick, they will try to read that sentence in an angry tone. This in turn helps kids identify that the tone of voice is very important when reading a book as it can add to the meaning of the text.



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