

For teachers and guiding hands. Emotions are more than just feelings; they are tied to our physical sensations and the way our bodies respond. By understanding and recognising these connections, children can better articulate and manage their feelings. But children don't embark on this journey alone. As guiding figures, you play an essential role in fostering this understanding. It's our shared responsibility to nurture the emotional growth of our children, guiding them towards healthier ways to express and cope.

These handouts are best delivered printed, If you can't print these handouts, contact us with your postal address at www.iamhope.org.nz, and we'll mail you printed copies.

Here's how you can nurture your child's emotional smarts:

Engaging with your child during play: Your involvement amplifies the game's impact. Interact with your child as they navigate the Hope Zoo, guiding their learning through open-ended questions and reflections. These shared moments and discussions leave lasting impressions and foster deeper understandina.

Acknowledge feelings: Listen and validate their emotions e.g. "I see you're frustrated about the puzzle."

Empower through choices: Give them control when possible e.g. "Would you prefer to draw or read now?"

Teach calming techniques: Prompt deep breaths during agitation e.g. "Let's take three breaths together."