

Unit Two: Creating Emotional Sculptures

We spent the first unit exploring the main emotions, now let's take this into some small group work!

Artist Clay Activity

Begin by discussing what is a sculptor and what are sculptures. Before this activity, you might want kids to explore actual clay. If you don't have clay, having kids work with playdough would go a long way for them to understand how it feels to manipulate clay.

Tell students they now get a chance to become sculptors themselves, and they'll even have a chance to become clay for someone to "mold" into a sculpture.



[Click here for an Elmo video about sculptures](#)

Begin by choosing two people to become either the artist or clay in front of the group. Let the clay know they must do everything the artists tells or directs them. They can't change the pose on their own. Let the artist know they should put their clay in positions they can physically handle for a few minutes.

The artist must then "mold" the clay into something for the rest of the group to guess what it is. The artist can do this non-verbally, using soft touches to move legs, arms and fingers. If we are to keep our hands to ourselves, the artist may simply use their words to direct the clay as they wish. Remind students their sculptures should be as still as possible, and the artist will want to choose something that the others will be able to decipher by looking at the visual cues.

Students can explore poses like a ballet dancer, baseball player, or traffic guard. The goal is for the artist to mold their clay with enough visual clues that the audience needs to guess what they're creating. This is also a great opportunity to explore our emotions, making sculptures with the range of emotions.



[Click this image to see some emotional sculptures](#)



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