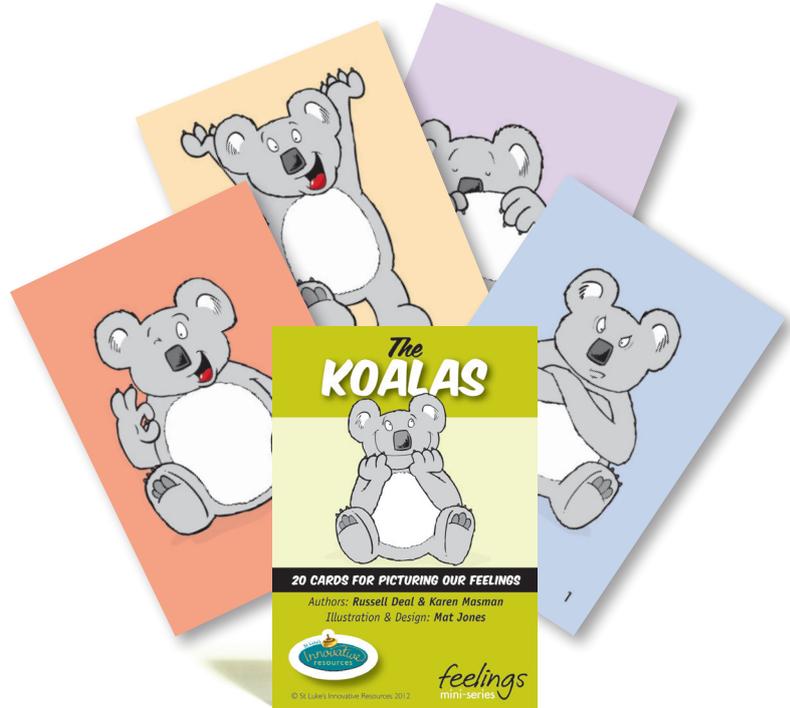
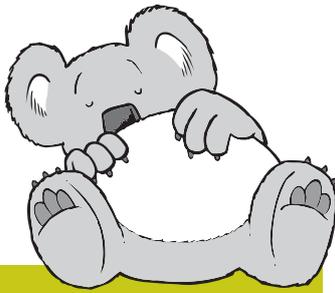


# The Koalas



Meet *The Koalas*! There are 20 members in *The Koalas* family, each one portraying a different emotion. Describing our feelings in words is not always easy, but because these koalas look so much like we humans, chances are most people will be able to interpret and describe each of the emotions they portray.

Best of all, this mini card set will fit your back pocket, making it perfect to stow away for unexpected moments or to carry when you're on the road!

### The Name Game

Turn the 20 *Koalas* cards over one at a time and name as many different feelings as you can that might describe each one. This is a great way to build emotional vocabularies but also to demonstrate how imprecise our language can be and how we are constantly making interpretations that can vary considerably from person to person and from time to time.

### Feelings Snap

Just about everyone knows how to play Snap, the card game based on matching two or more identical sets of cards.

Two or more sets of *Koalas* can be used to play Snap with a twist. Instead of calling 'Snap!' when two matching cards are turned up, call out 'Koalas!' and name the emotion portrayed on the matching cards. Older children or adults can be invited to name three or more possible interpretations of the cards.

### Feedback and Evaluation

The feelings portrayed by *The Koalas* make the cards a delightfully different way to provide feedback or evaluation. Children (or adults for that matter) can be asked to find the kanga that best sums up their feeling about a particular event or activity.

Children in particular are often not asked their opinion by adults because we struggle to find the words and questions that they can understand and answer in meaningful ways.

In the Child and Family Services programs at St Luke's Anglicare we have devised simple questionnaires that ask the children in these programs questions about their experience. All the questions can be answered using a *Koala* card to accompany their words.

Using *The Koalas* can open up significant sources of insight for workers, parents and the children themselves.

### Storytelling

Being invited to make up a story can reveal interesting and unexpected insights into ourselves because we often inject aspects of our own experiences into the stories we tell. This is particularly true for children and is one of the fundamental tenants of play therapy.

Children can be given a deliberately chosen card from *The Koalas* and asked to make up a story about that *Koala*. Alternatively, the child might be presented with all or part of the set and asked to choose the *Koala* they would like to tell a story about.

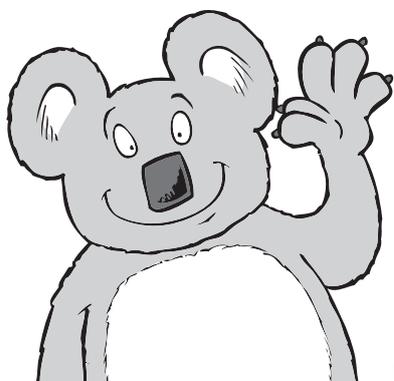
- Why is your *Koala* sad or happy (or whatever)?
- Have you ever been in a story like your *Koala*?
- What other *Koalas* were there at the time your story happened?
- Which *Koala* were you during the story?
- Did you change and become another *Koala* during the story?
- Which *Koala* do you remember most when you remember the story now?



### THE KOALAS

20 laminated, full-colour cards; 96 x 67mm;  
36-page booklet, polypropylene box  
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Illustration and design: Mat Jones  
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