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School of Education, Language
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University



Dear

Researcher

POSSIBILITIES OF CO-
RESEARCH SPACES

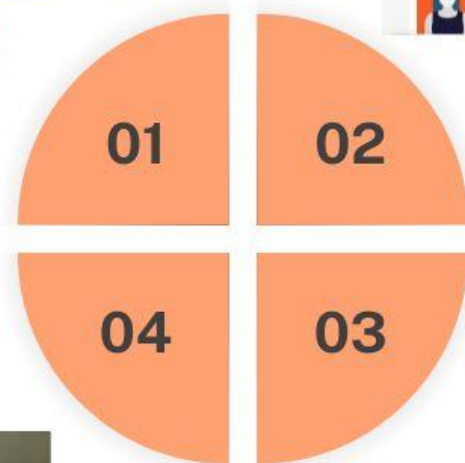


A GUIDE TO CHOOSING Research Avatars

Choose your
creative medium.



Discuss
pseudonyms and
anonymity within
research.



Tell us about
your avatar.



Make or choose
an avatar and
explore what
they can
represent.

Create an avatar

What can you create?
What does your creation
represent?

Can you tell us a little bit about
how this came about?

Does your avatar have a name
or a feeling?

Can you tell us anything about
what your avatar represents?

Dear

Researcher,

Over the past few weeks we have been doing research and we have used many different ways to work together and collect research data. We have made some important discoveries including;

- Research methods can vary in difficulty for participants – people can give vastly different responses and struggle
 - Trying different research methods is useful for depth of answers.
 - We like taking photos – Showing that we are comfortable with this research method.
- Research can be challenging – navigating conflicting emotions.

We are writing this letter for you to consider what type of researcher you can be! Sometimes youth researchers will feel embarrassed and not know what to say. This is okay and you may be able to help them by talking to them.

Making young people feel comfortable is important. Make sure you consider their input and put their words and ideas into the research, to make the researchers feel valued and empowered. You can do this by encouraging them to be independent. It's important because everyone should feel independent and should be able to do whatever they want to do and feel however they want to feel. To feel emotions, to be able to get involved in things when they want to, and not be afraid. Look for ways for young people to express themselves. An online diary worked well for young people who don't like writing that much, as a team we can look and see what we have made together and the progress each week.

Through the research process we have felt valued and gained in confidence. Feeling valued feels like all your ideas get listened to and you have a say. Confidence includes speaking aloud and not being held back. Make sure youth researchers feel encouraged and included.

Keep the atmosphere 'a bit silly', to keep young people from being bored. Make sure everyone is connected through a sense of humour and heard with purposeful intent. Engaging with research can feel Royal! Because young people might not get many opportunities like this. Channel your inner Royalty and enjoy your time being a researcher.

Best Regards,

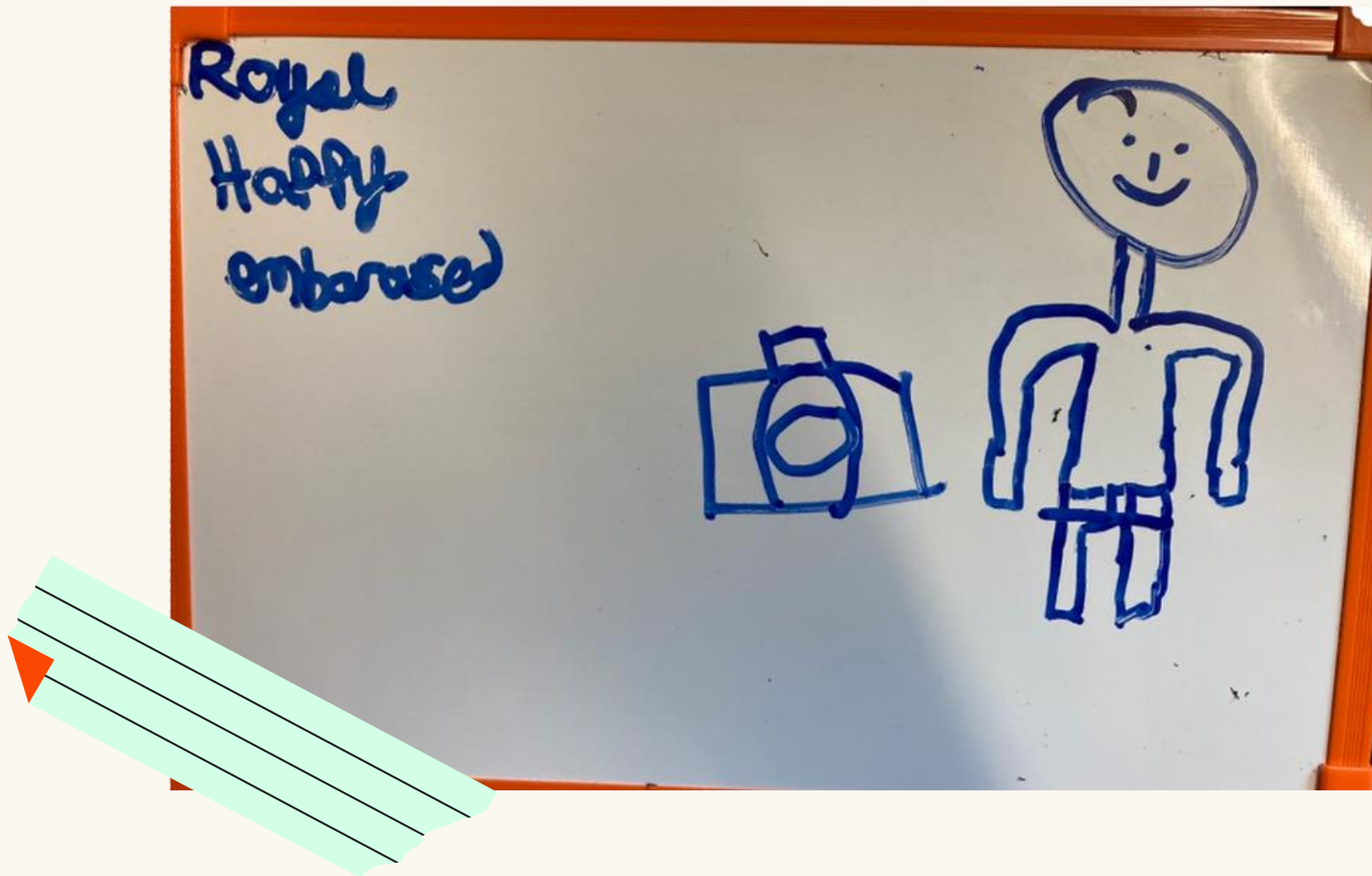
The
Resear
ch
Gang



Welcome

In today's workshop we will;

- Explore experiences of co-research in schools.
- Use creative methods to develop ideas.
- Understand the experience of those involved.
- Have a go at exploring and sharing our emotions relating to co-research.
- Feedback – tell a story about our hopes for youth co-research.



Grab a post-it note –
how do you feel right
now?

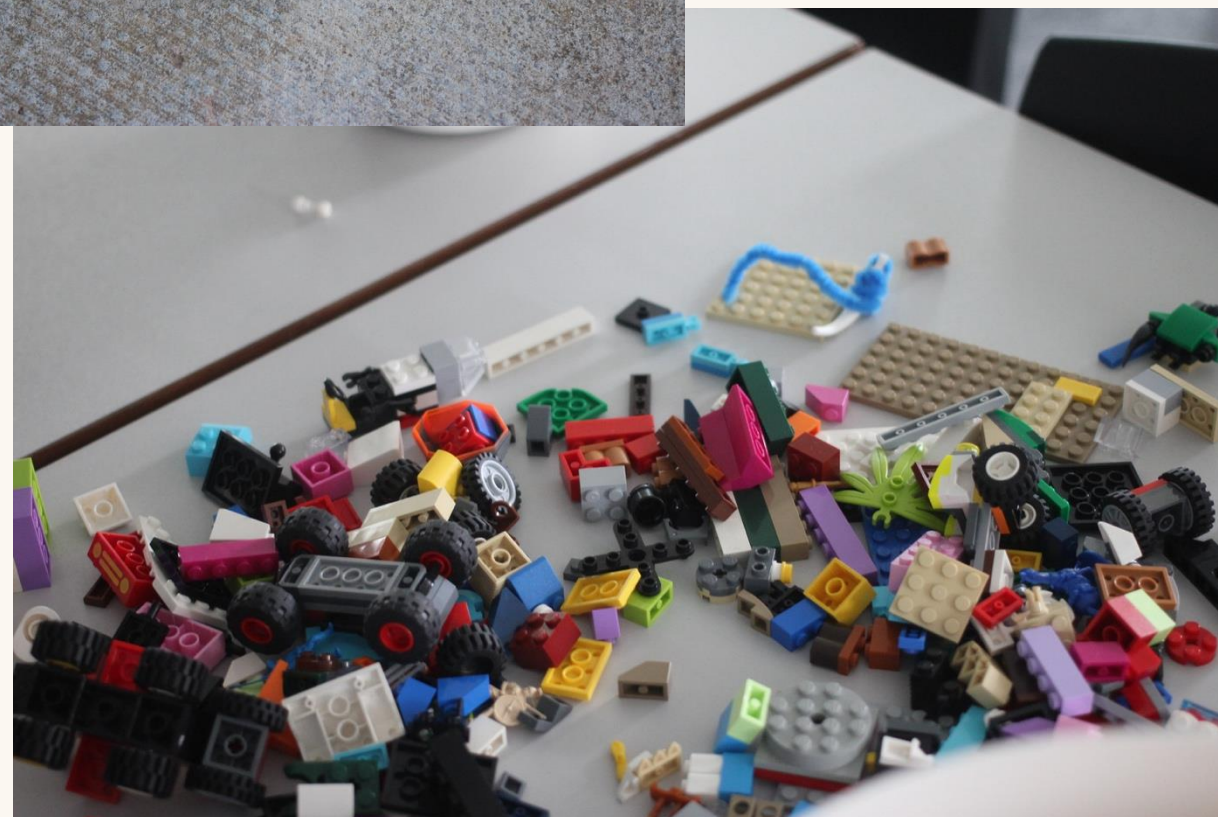
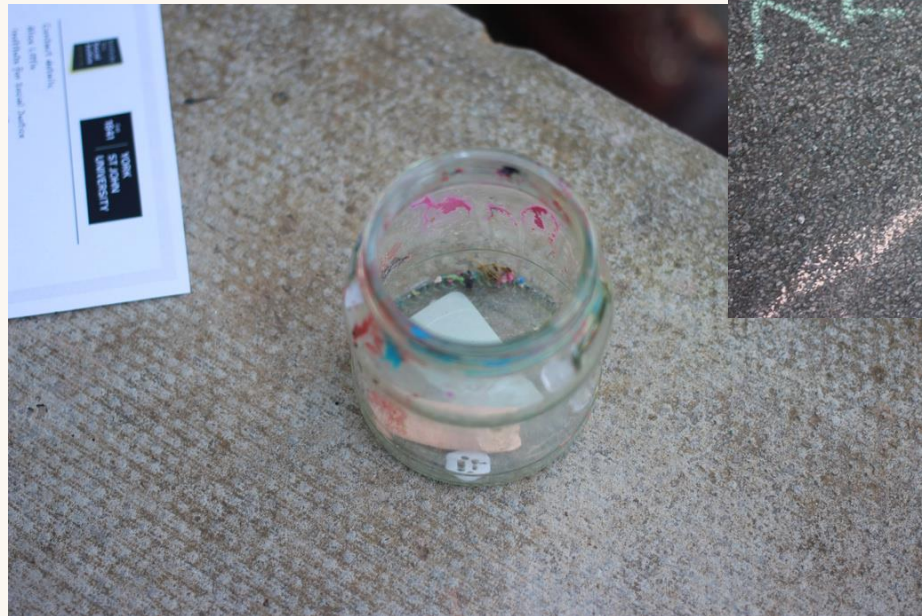
Playful, collaborative co-research.

Importance of visual methods to engage with research topics (Pimlott-Wilson, 2012).

‘I can’t remember the last time I played with Playdough’
- Young researcher (12)

Engaged with ethical considerations through chalk drawing, photography and visual online diaries.

‘The importance of play as human, connective and embedded within our consideration of existence is clear.’ (James, 2021, 26)



YOUR RIGHTS IN RESEARCH

(modified from Moore, McArthur and Noble-Carr, 2018)

We want you to feel that when you engage with our research you have choices, are protected and that we value and respect your contributions.



Contact details:
Alice Little
Institute for Social Justice
York St John University
Email: alice.little@yorksja.ac.uk

You have the right to have your say.

We believe that children and young people should be involved in any research that focuses on them.

You have the right to privacy.

You can choose how you are identified in the work we create together.

You have the right to participate in a way that you like.

It is up to you if you get involved and how you want to participate in the research.

You have the right to be treated well and not get hurt.

We will respect you for who you are and work together to make sure nobody experiences any harm during the research.

You have the right to be informed.

We want you to fully understand everything that we do together. We will develop ways to make sure everyone is able to discuss and understand.

You have the right to confidentiality.

If you tell us about something that affects your safety we will have to share this information. It will be your choice about what you would like to share about the research.

You have the right to benefit from the research.

We want you to gain skills and enjoy working as part of our research team. You will receive a gift or voucher for participating.

You have the right to stop participating.

At any time during the research you can stop working with us. You will still receive any payment or gift offered.

You have the right to not be discriminated against.

We will not treat people badly because of who they are or where they come from.

You also have the right to speak up if you are unhappy with the research. Talk to us, your teachers or use the contact details above.

Your rights in research

As with all members of any co-research space I want you to feel that when you engage today you have choices about how you engage, and that we will all respect and value your individual and collective contributions.

An activity I use to explore rights in research with CYP is to draw around our bodies or hands with chalk and to share what we value in collaborative spaces and which 'rights' are fundamental to our own engagement.



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LEGO play

- 1 Grab some LEGO.
- 2 Build a space/place/creation that you understand to be about collaboration, creativity and inquiry.
- 3 Can you share what is interesting or meaningful about your creation?
- 4 Think about some questions to ask someone at your table.
- 5 Share, discuss and expand upon these LEGO worlds.

**Build a
space!**

**Tell us
about your
space...**

**What
values does
your space
hold?**

Let's GO.



FEEDBACK

HOW DOES IT MAKE
SENSE?

Can you think of some questions to ask the people around you about their creation?

My favourite all time question was 'How does it make sense?'

WHAT HAVE YOU
LEARNT FROM THIS?

Insights and collaborative discussion sharing – what does this model mean to you? What does it represent for future co-research spaces?

HOW DOES THIS
MAKE YOU FEEL?

Can you jot down some feelings about your space?

Transformative spaces

Emotion words encourage us to understand and transform the spaces we are working in. By upholding our values as, 'theorists, activists, teachers and worriers' (Fine, 1997, 95), within our research, in the spaces we share with children and young people, we can begin to reconceptualize authentic participation (Proefke and Barford, 2023).

Using emotion words enables us to.....



Explore what values we hold and how we can enact these in co-research spaces.

Profke and Barford (2023)



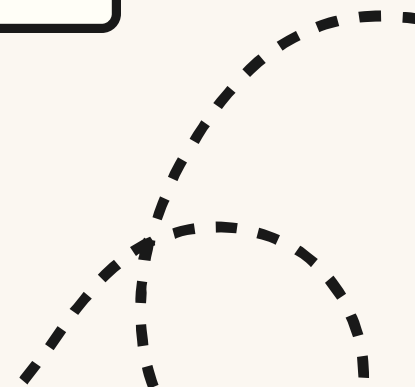
Understand how working with emotions can be transformative for the spaces we create and how we approach co-inquiry.

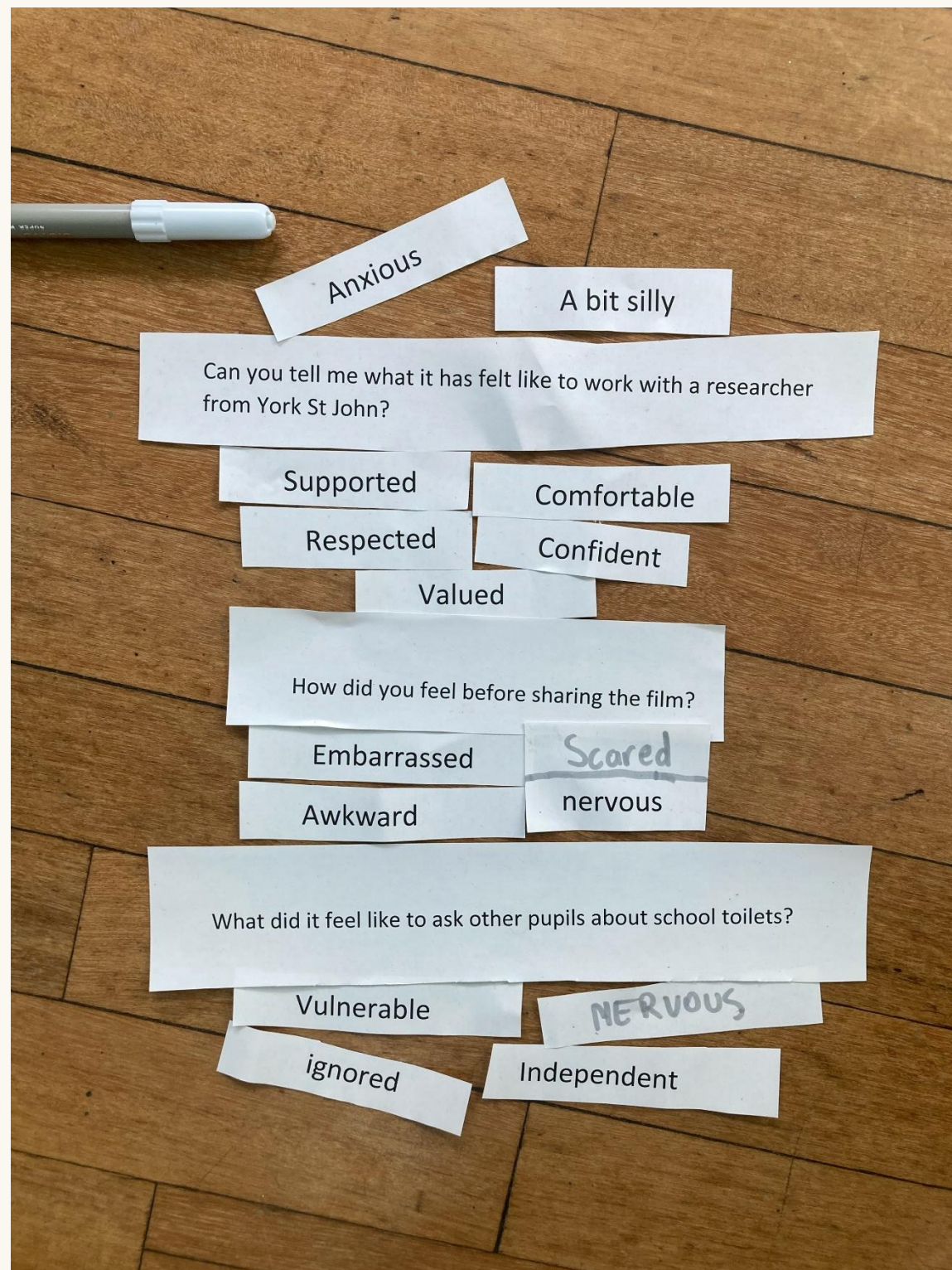
Kaya Aaye, Gioachhino and Wegner (2022)



To think about the knowledge we are sharing and valuing, and how this can be impacted by emotions of all.

Kaya Aaye, Gioachhino and Wegner (2022)





How did it feel?

Exploring

emotions

Builds upon Dewar et al's (2010) work and their use of 'emotional touchpoints', and emotive words to explore compassionate care with participants.

- The resource enables 'practitioners to see in a more balanced way both the positive and negative aspects of an experience' (Dewar et al, 2010:29).

UNDERSTANDING CO-RESEARCH SPACES

THIS GUIDE EXPLORES HOW EMOTION WORDS CAN BE USED AS A TOOL TO ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION ABOUT CO-RESEARCH SPACES.



1. IDENTIFY PROMPTS AND KEY LEARNING MOMENTS

Identify questions and key learning moments from your time together as a co-research team. Questions that consider the experience of creating a co-research space such as, 'What does it feel like to engage as a co-researcher?' can be useful starting points to encourage a range of perspectives.



2. INTRODUCE EMOTION WORDS

Once prompts or questions have been decided upon, researchers can use emotion words as a resource for encouraging discussion and reflection. The accompanying word bank is intended to help articulate everyone's experience of engaging with a co-research space. Include blank paper for people to contribute words to the word bank.



3. DISCUSS AND EXPLORE TOGETHER

Encourage anyone who feels comfortable to expand upon their choice of words. What do you want people to know about the experience of co-creating research? What is important to share and how can we keep talking about these elements of co-research spaces and practice?



4. COLLABORATIVE CREATIVITY

Once you've identified the emotion words and expanded upon these, can you work together to share your insights. Youth researchers have engaged in research conversations building upon their identified emotions, drawn doodles relating to the words and collaborated on a 'Dear Researcher' letter highlighting factors they considered important in collaborative research spaces. What could your co-research team create to spread the word?

1. IDENTIFY KEY PROMPTS

The question we will start with today;

How do you feel before you begin a research project?

How do you feel at the end of a research project?

What has it felt like to become a researcher?

3. DISCUSS AND EXPLORE TOGETHER

Share your thoughts behind them and discuss what you learnt from these emotions if you would like.

2. INTRODUCE EMOTION WORDS

Start by exploring the emotion words, feel free to add your own and expand upon them.

4. COLLABORATIVE CREATIVITY

Young researchers have created doodles, LEGO creations and letters using the emotion words - what can you collaboratively create?

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FEEDBACK

**CAN YOU SHARE AN
EMOTION AND
EXPAND UPON IT?**

Explore the thinking behind the emotion words you chose – be courageous and tell us how and why you chose the emotions.

**DEAR YOUNG
RESEARCHER!**

Can we use these to create a call out to those who may be interested in engaging with research/co-inquiry.

**WHAT DO YOU WANT
TO SHARE?**

What feels important to share about the future of potential co-research spaces?

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Grab a post-it note –
how do you feel right
now?

THANK



YOU!



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