



Using Your Words

KEY POINTS

- There are a lot of big challenges in the preschool years and guiding children to use language to express themselves is a foundational skill.
- All feelings are okay to feel, it's what we do with them that matters. At this age, kids sometimes react impulsively. This is normal and provides opportunities to discuss ways to communicate and resolve minor conflicts.
- In situations where there may be conflict or big feelings, find ways to help your students use words to express what they are experiencing, what their preferences may be, and what they need in the moment.
- As our hedgehog friends sing, **“You can use your words!”**

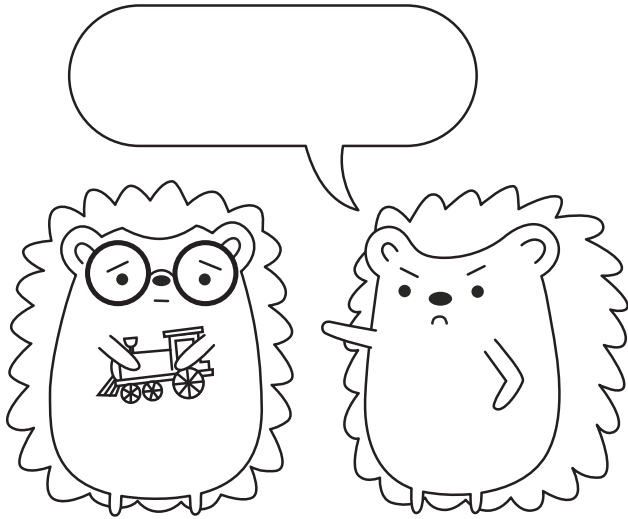
TIPS FOR REINFORCING

- Visual cues and reminders are extremely helpful at this age. Providing a cue in the classroom that reinforces “using your words” can be helpful.
- Model using your words to describe how you feel, what your preference is, and what you may need.
- In situations where there is conflict or high emotion, use it as an opportunity to pause and patiently help students use their words to describe what they feel and what they need.
- Through songs and stories, reinforce the use of words that are helpful in situations. Words can be used for difficult moments and moments of joy.
- Provide positive feedback when students in the classroom use their words to express their experience, preferences, and needs. For example:
 - “Good job using your words to ask for the crayons.”

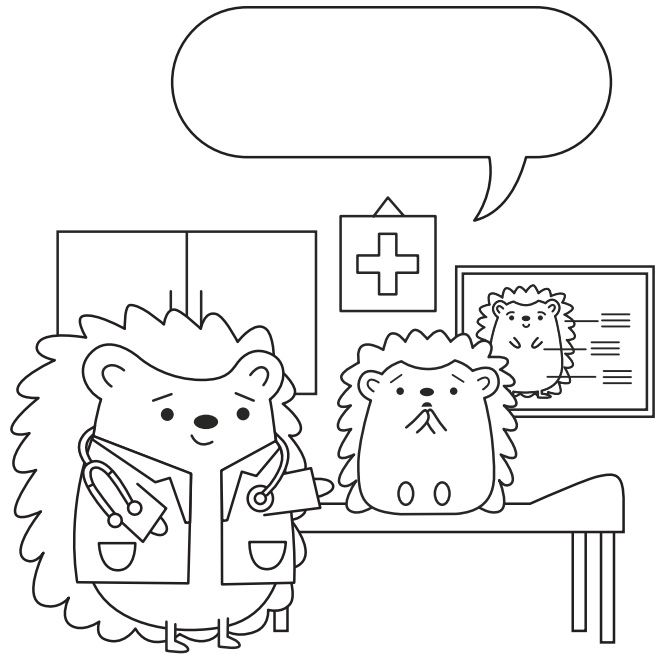
Using Your Words

♪ You can use your words! ♪

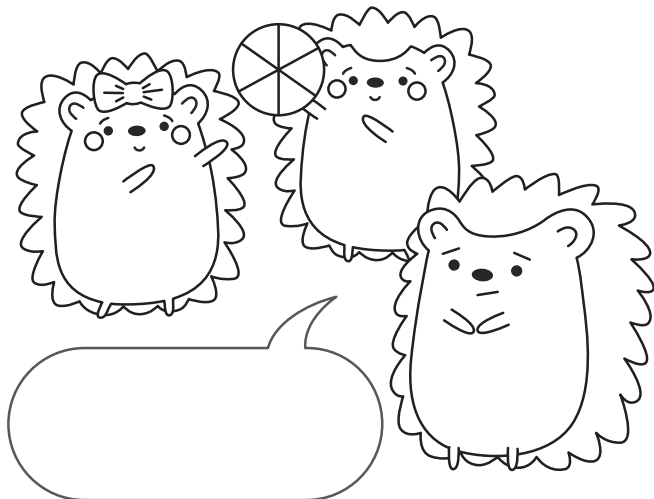
Take a look at the hedgehogs in different situations below.
Think about what words the hedgehog can use in that situation.



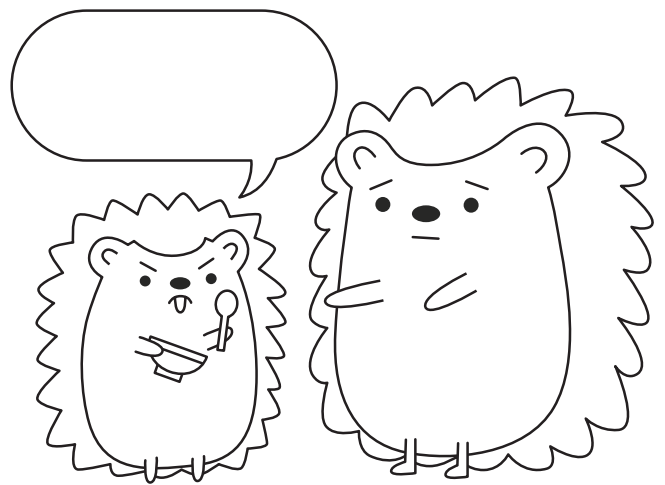
The hedgehog is mad at the other hedgehog for taking their toy.



The hedgehog is nervous at the doctor's office.



The hedgehog is nervous to join the other hedgehogs playing.

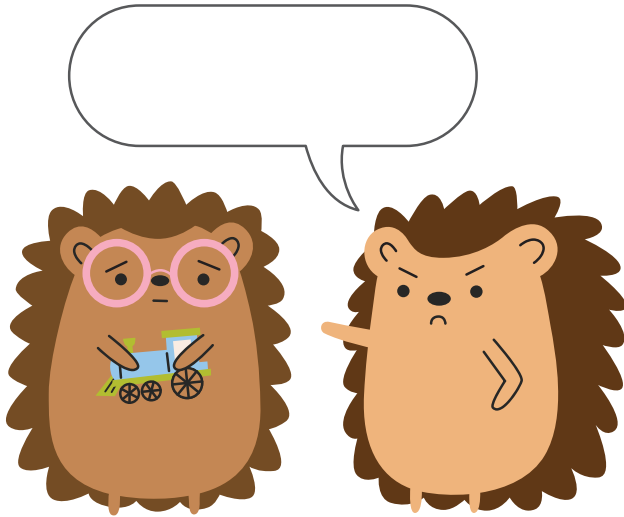


The hedgehog does not like the meal.

Using Your Words

♪ You can use your words! ♪

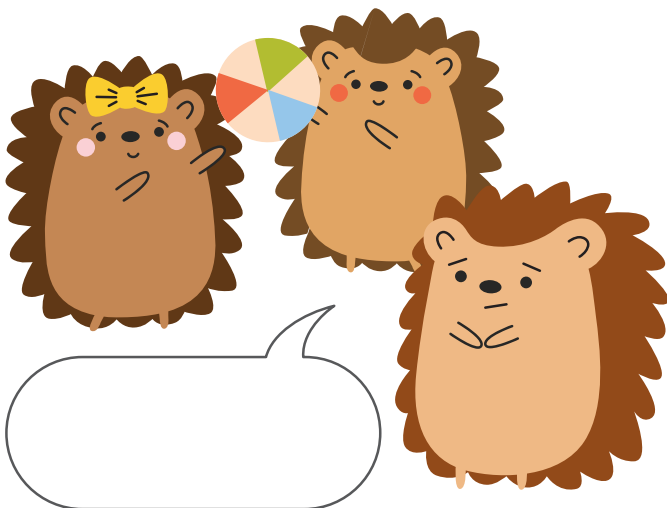
Take a look at the hedgehogs in different situations below.
Think about what words the hedgehog can use in that situation.



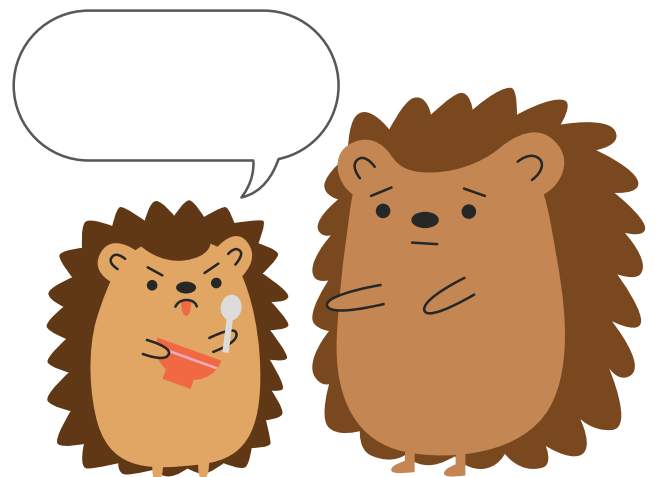
The hedgehog is mad at the other hedgehog for taking their toy.



The hedgehog is nervous at the doctor's office.



The hedgehog is nervous to join the other hedgehogs playing.



The hedgehog does not like the meal.