

A calm corner for your class

Everything in this kit is free for home and classroom use. Print what you need, as often as you like.

In this kit

A door sign for the calm corner

A class poster: the calm-down menu, “Choose what is best for you”

16 calm-down cards, 2 blank cards for the class's own ideas, and a note for grown-ups

A feelings chart and “I feel...” check-in cards

“How big is my cloud?”, a feelings meter

Eight calm passes



How to start

Introduce the corner and the cards on a calm day, and practice them together. Calming down is a skill children learn with practice.

The corner is a choice and a comfort, never a time-out or a punishment.

Use the cloud meter or the check-in cards at morning circle, and after recess.

Keep it small and quiet: a rug, a pillow, a soft toy, the menu and the cards.

An honest note: calm corners are a recommended practice. There are no strong studies of calm corners on their own.

When to ask for help. If big feelings often end in someone getting hurt, last for weeks, or keep your child from school or play, talk to your pediatrician, family doctor or school counselor. These ideas are for everyday feelings and don't replace care.

The ideas belong to Foo and his friends from the picture book *Foo's Big Emotions*. More free printables and *Breathe with Foo*, a guided breath for a phone or tablet, are at madeofyou.com/calm.

SHH, COME IN QUIETLY

Calm corner



A cozy place to breathe, rest and feel better. Like Foo's tent.

“Everyone has a different way to calm down.” (from the book)

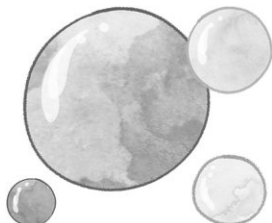
Who is calming down here? _____

Choose what is best for you

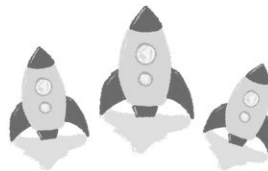
Circle the ideas you like best. Then pick one when a feeling gets big.



1. Rain-cloud breath



2. Bubble breaths



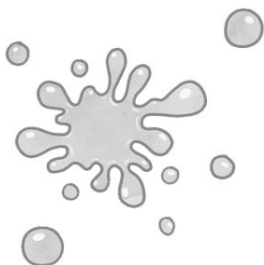
3. Spaceship countdown



4. Balloon belly breath



5. Jump it out, then slow down



6. Squish and let go



7. Water



8. The 3-3-3 noticing game



9. Paint it out



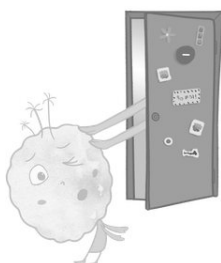
10. Air-painting



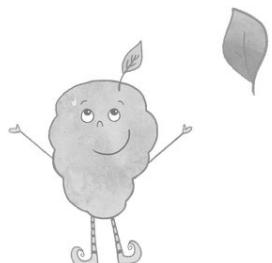
11. Listen to music



12. Cuddle a pet or a soft toy



13. Be with someone who makes you feel safe



14. Follow one leaf down



15. Let it go balloons



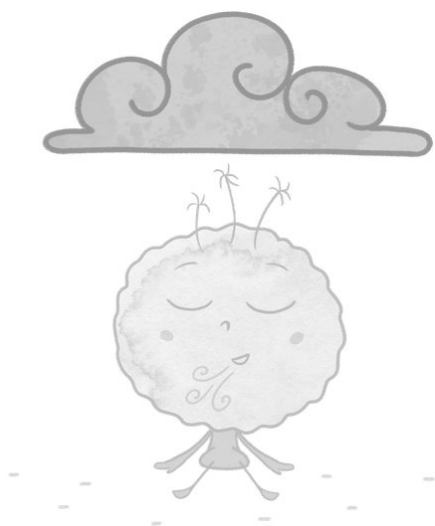
16. A calm tent

My favorite way to calm down is _____

"Everyone has a different way to calm down." (from the book)

BREATHE

1



Rain-cloud breath

Breathe in slowly while you count to 4. Breathe out slowly while you count to 6, and picture your big cloud turning into gentle rain.

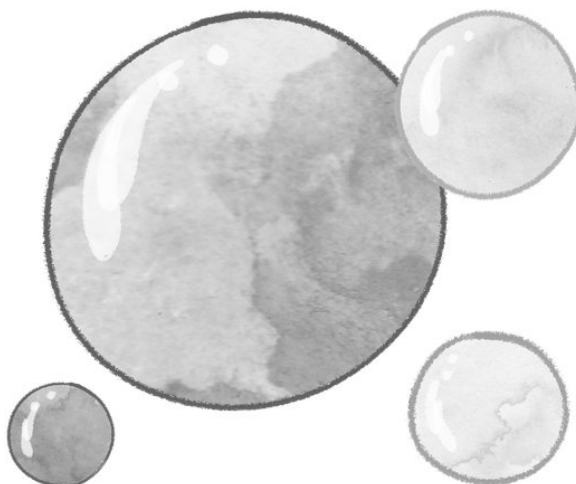
From the book: Each time he exhaled, Foo felt that somehow that big, dark cloud in his mind was becoming rain and releasing his sadness on the ground.

Foo's idea

madeofyou.com/calm

BREATHE

2



Bubble breaths

Take a slow breath in. Then breathe out long and gentle, as if you are blowing one huge bubble. Real bubbles work too!

From the book: "This is what calms me down," said Bubbly!

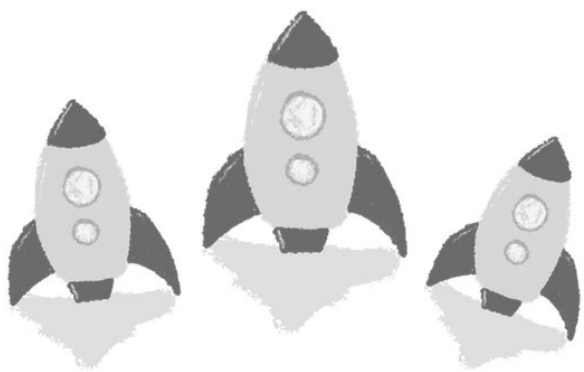
Bubbly's idea

madeofyou.com/calm

Cut on the dashed lines

BREATHE

3



Spaceship countdown

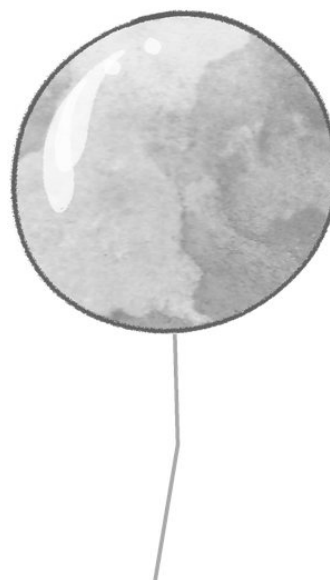
Close your eyes for a second. Imagine you're a spaceship. Count backwards from 10 to 1 and... fly! Open your eyes now and explore this new planet. Remember to take deep breaths and when you calm down, you can return to Earth.

From the book's activity pages

madeofyou.com/calm

BREATHE

4



Balloon belly breath

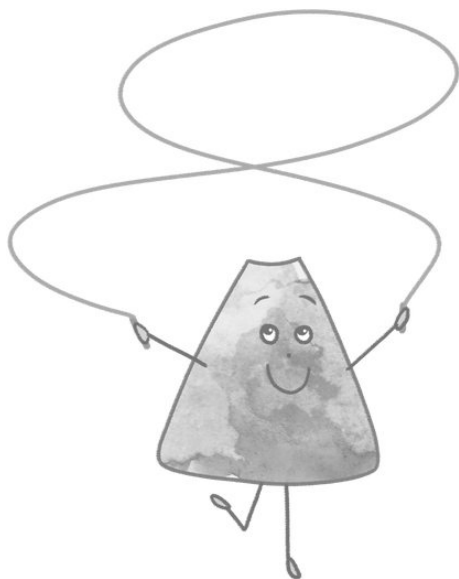
Put your hands on your tummy. Breathe in and feel it fill up like a balloon. Breathe out slowly and let the balloon go small.

A classic

madeofyou.com/calm

MOVE

5



Jump it out, then slow down

Jump rope like Blue, or hop on the spot. Then slow down, slower, slower, until you stop and take one big breath.

From the book: This is what calms me down!

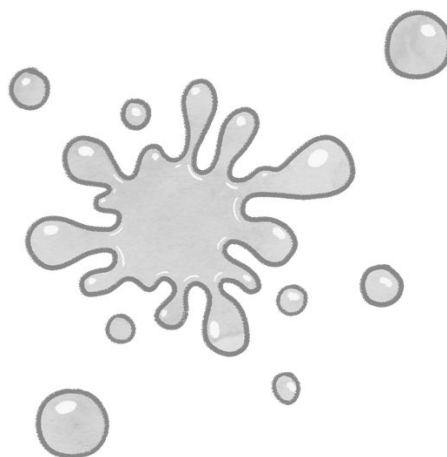
Blue's idea

madeofyou.com/calm

Cut on the dashed lines

SENSES

6



Squish and let go

Squeeze something soft as hard as you can while you count to 5. Then let go, and feel your hands go floppy.

From the book: Gooley burst the soap bubble with his new, green slime!

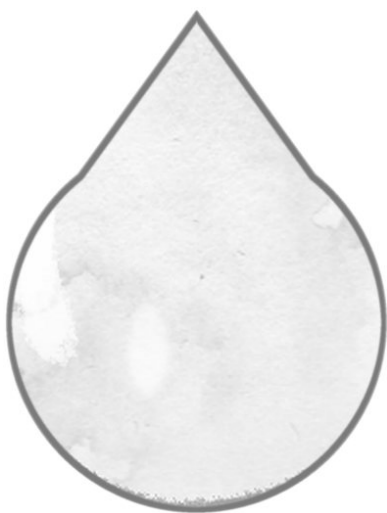
Playdough, clay or a soft stress ball are just right for squishing. We leave out homemade slime recipes on purpose.

Gooley's idea

madeofyou.com/calm

SENSES

7



Water

Drink water! Dip your hands in the water. Let the water run on your body, take a quick shower. Talk to the water!

Grown-ups: stay close by whenever there is water.

From the book's activity pages

madeofyou.com/calm

SENSES

8



The 3-3-3 noticing game

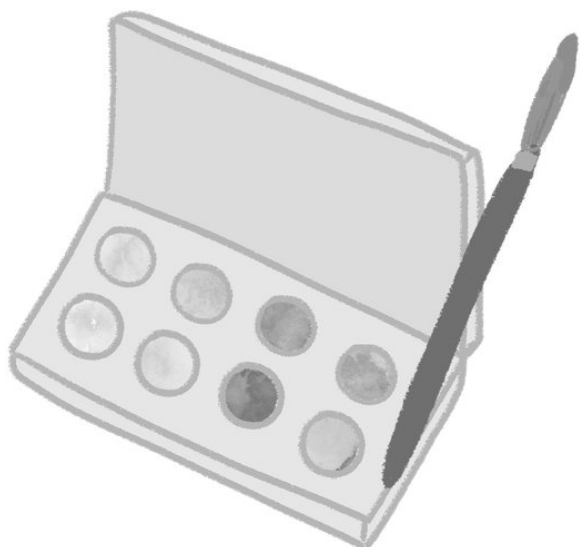
Look around and find 3 things you can see. Listen for 3 sounds. Then wiggle 3 parts of your body.

A classic

madeofyou.com/calm

CREATE

9



Paint it out

Paint or scribble how you feel, in any colors you like. Big feelings can make big pictures. Nobody has to see it.

From the book: Flo showed her hands that are always painted.

Flo's idea

madeofyou.com/calm

CREATE

10



Air-painting

Air-painting! Imagine you're holding a brush. Air-paint everything you like!

From the book's activity pages

madeofyou.com/calm

Cut on the dashed lines

LISTEN AND CUDDLE

11



Listen to music

Put on a song that feels calm to you. Listen all the way to the end, and let your breathing slow down with it.

From the book: While Muse was holding this little device, he always carries with him, to listen to music!

Muse's idea

madeofyou.com/calm

LISTEN AND CUDDLE

12



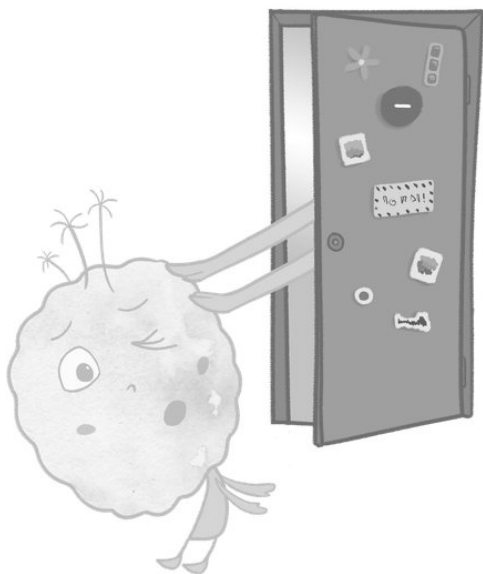
Cuddle a pet or a soft toy

Give your pet a gentle cuddle, or hug your softest toy. You can tell it how you feel.

From the book: After all, this always calms him down.

Foo's idea, with his dog

madeofyou.com/calm



Be with someone who makes you feel safe

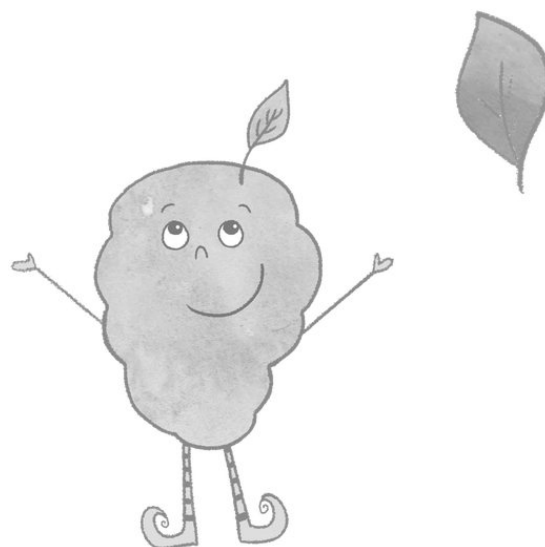
Sit close to someone who makes you feel safe.
You don't have to talk until you want to.

From the book: Being with her always makes him feel safe.

Foo's idea, with his sister

madeofyou.com/calm

Cut on the dashed lines



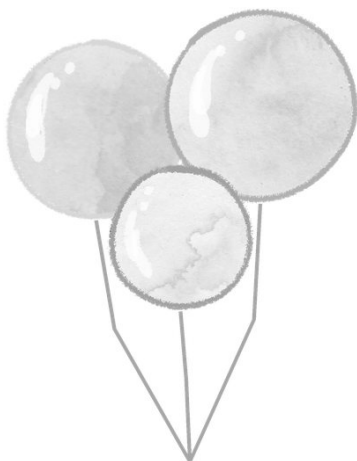
Follow one leaf down

Pick one leaf, real or pretend, and watch it float all the way down. Breathe out slowly while it falls.

From the book: He even brought his buddies with him, the leaves!!!

Fall's idea

madeofyou.com/calm



Let it go balloons

Take a marker and write on the balloons whatever is holding you back and you can't control it. Take a deep breath and let it go!

Grown-ups: you blow up the balloons. Broken balloon pieces go straight in the trash, because children under 8 can choke on them.

From the book's activity pages

madeofyou.com/calm



A calm tent

Make a cozy hideout with a blanket, pillows and your favorite toys. Go there whenever you need a quiet moment.

From the book: All his toys were there.

Foo's idea

madeofyou.com/calm

MY OWN IDEA

?

Draw it here

My own idea

Your idea

madeofyou.com/calm

MY OWN IDEA

?

Draw it here

My own idea

Your idea

madeofyou.com/calm

Cut on the dashed lines



My calm-down cards

"Everyone has a different way to calm down."
Which ways are yours?

From the picture book Foo's Big Emotions

These cards belong to _____

FOR GROWN-UPS

How to use the cards

Try them together when everyone is calm, so they are ready for a big moment. Calming down is a skill, and it grows with practice.

Let your child choose. A card is an offer, never a punishment.

Lay out three or four favorites, or keep them on a ring in your calm corner.

Stay close and name the feeling: "You look angry. I'm here."

For ages 3 to 8. Cut on the dashed lines.

More ideas

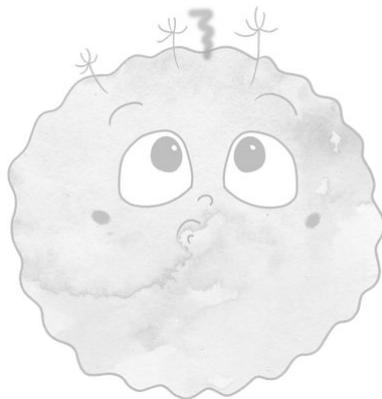
madeofyou.com/calm

What am I feeling?

Point to the Foo who feels like you do right now. Every feeling is OK.



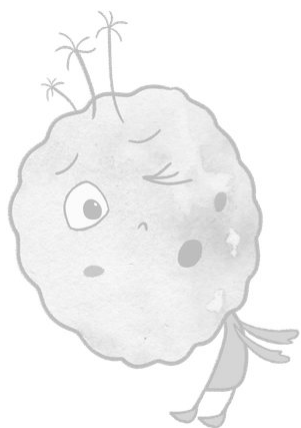
sad



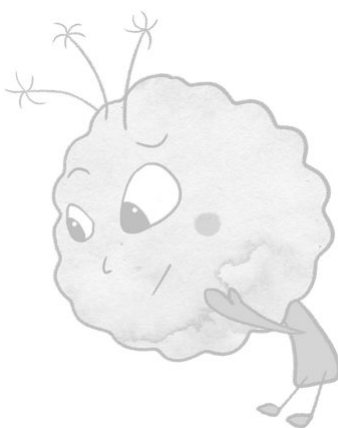
worried



angry



disappointed



puzzled



calm



safe



happy



loved

“All we feel and experience is important and everything is needed!”

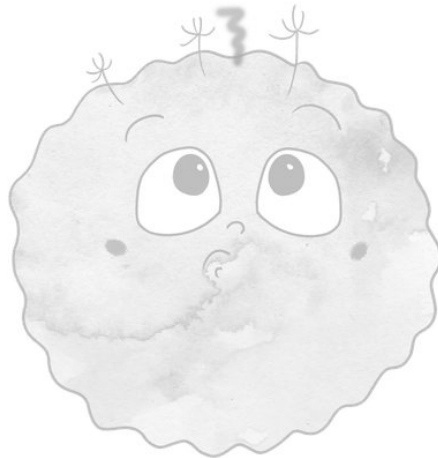
From the book

I feel... check-in cards

Cut out the cards. Pick the one that matches you, hold it up and say: I feel...



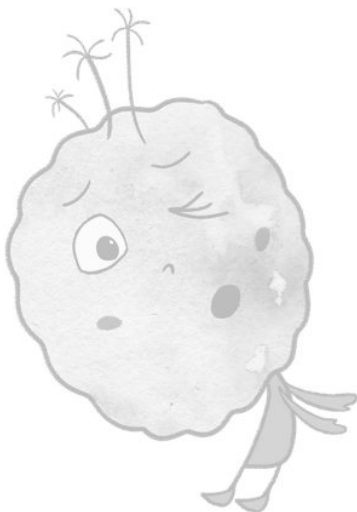
I feel sad



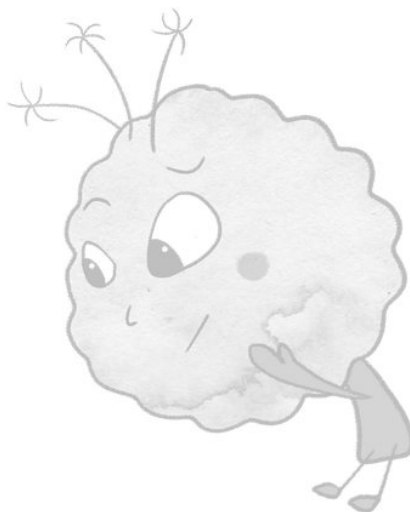
I feel worried



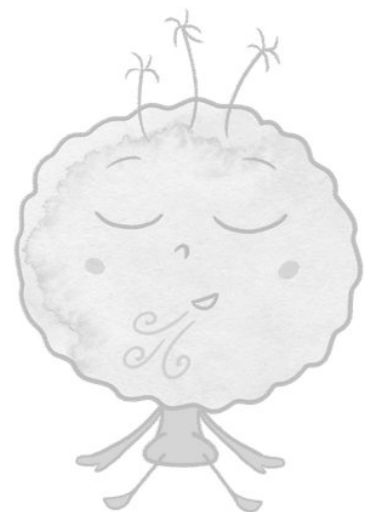
I feel angry



I feel disappointed



I feel puzzled



I feel calm



I feel safe



I feel happy



I feel loved

How big is my cloud?

When a feeling grows, it is like Foo's cloud: it gets bigger and darker. Point to your cloud, or clip a clothespin next to it.



Foo's big dark cloud

My feeling is HUGE.

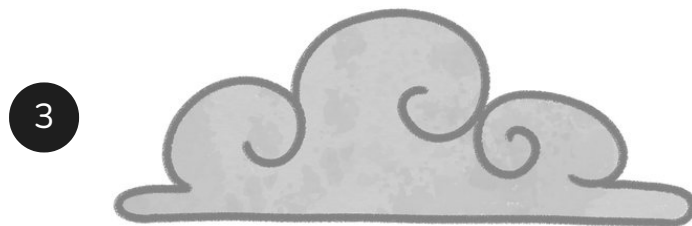
Breathe, and find a grown-up.



A dark cloud

It is hard to think.

Pick a calm-down idea.



A bigger cloud

My feeling is getting big.

Take a slow breath.



A small gray cloud

Something bugs me a little.

Say what it is.



A little white cloud

I feel OK.

Keep playing!

Calm pass

For the classroom: a child shows a pass, goes to the calm corner, and comes back when the cloud is small.



Calm pass

I need a calm break. I will come back when my cloud is small.

Name _____



Calm pass

I need a calm break. I will come back when my cloud is small.

Name _____



Calm pass

I need a calm break. I will come back when my cloud is small.

Name _____



Calm pass

I need a calm break. I will come back when my cloud is small.

Name _____



Calm pass

I need a calm break. I will come back when my cloud is small.

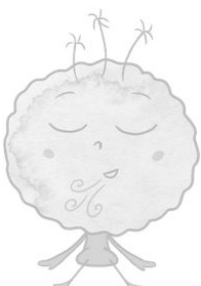
Name _____



Calm pass

I need a calm break. I will come back when my cloud is small.

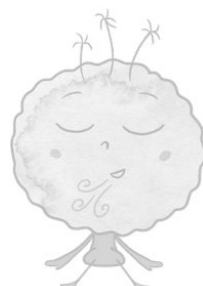
Name _____



Calm pass

I need a calm break. I will come back when my cloud is small.

Name _____



Calm pass

I need a calm break. I will come back when my cloud is small.

Name _____