

Session	Emotional Literacy and Mental Health
Background Information	Emotional literacy is the ability to recognise, understand, appropriately express and handle our own emotional states and those of other people. A person with well-developed emotional literacy is therefore able to recognize and respond to the emotional states of others. This is considered a hallmark of healthy relationships.
Aim	To raise awareness of emotional literacy and how it supports mental health
Objectives	<p>Participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dispel emotional literacy myths 2. Describe what emotional literacy is 3. Discuss the impact on mental health when we are not emotionally literate 4. List the benefits of being emotionally literate 5. Identify ways to develop emotional literacy 6. List resources to support mental health and wellbeing
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 hours
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT • Presentation • Quiz • Flipchart/pens • Session handouts • Reflective practice tool

Learning outcomes	Participant Activity	Resources	Time
1. Dispel emotional literacy myths	• Myth buster	Quiz	5 min
2. Describe what emotional literacy is	• I got a feeling	Slide	5 min
3. Discuss the impact on mental health when we are not emotionally literate	• Body map	Flipchart/pens Slide	15 min
4. List the benefits of being emotionally literate	• Body map	Flipchart/pens Slide	15 min
5. Identify ways to develop emotional literacy	• Developing emotional literacy	Flipchart/pens	30 min
6. List resources to support mental health and wellbeing	• None	Mental health resources handout	10 min
7. Looking after our own mental health	• Self-care	Slide	5 min
8. Reflection and session close	• Reflection	Reflective practice hand out	5 min

Emotional Literacy and Mental Health

Facilitator notes

Slide	Notes	Time	Resources
Slide 1	Welcome participants and introduce yourself before offering an overview of the session. Have the title slide up and visible whilst doing this.	5 min	Slides
Slide 2	Put up the session overview slide and read out what will be covered today. Emphasise the session is not intended to make participants experts on emotional literacy but to raise awareness of emotional literacy and how it can promote and support positive mental health and wellbeing.		
Activity	Emotional Literacy Quiz Let's start with looking at some of the myths that surround emotionally literacy. Distribute the quiz to participants. This can be done on an individual basis or as a group. Invite participants to complete the quiz, true or false. This is a good starting point and gives an insight into the participants' knowledge around what they believe emotional literacy is. Ask the participants if they have heard of the term emotional literacy, how would they define this? If help is required with this break the statement down "emotional means relating to our emotions and literacy is about the language we use". Once completed, go through each question of the quiz to generate discussion. Use the supporting statements to provide the correct answers and information. Discussion point: were there any surprises? Inform participants the quiz is a useful activity to challenge some of the myths associated with emotional literacy.	5 min	Quiz

Slide	Notes	Time	Resources
Activity	<p>I got a feeling</p> <p>The purpose of this activity is to get participants thinking about different emotions and words we might use to describe how we are feeling. The activity should be done very quickly without opportunity for detailed thought or discussion.</p> <p>Quickly go round the participants and ask the question how are you feeling today? It is anticipated that the majority of participants may use words like fine, ok, alright.</p> <p>Discussion point: Do not go into detail about the words the participants have used, instead ask them how easy/difficult did they find this activity to do? Highlight that we often use words like fine, ok, alright, which don't tell us how we are actually feeling.</p> <p>Note: you can share the word fine can be thought of as "Feelings Inside Not Explained".</p> <p>Conclude that we can think it is not acceptable to talk about your emotions especially if we are feeling sad, jealous, disappointed etc, the ones that can be thought of as difficult and challenging, we think that people don't want to hear about these. However if we do not speak about and deal with our emotions in a healthy way, this can impact on our mental health and wellbeing.</p>	5 min	None
Slide 3	<p>Emotional Literacy Definition</p> <p>So we have started off exploring some of the myths around emotional literacy and a simple activity to highlight that often we may not use the appropriate language to express how we are feeling, eg fine, ok, alright.</p> <p>Now put up the slide with the emotional literacy definition and read it out.</p> <p>Discussion point: do participants think there are good and bad emotions? It is helpful not to classify emotions as good or bad, all emotions serve a purpose, fear can be a protector factor and can help keep us safe, anger can be positive, it can motivate us to make change etc.</p> <p>When we look at emotional literacy and mental health, being emotional literate can help protect from various mental health conditions, such as depression and anxiety. Emotional literacy can also help offset factors that increase the risk of mental health conditions, such stress.</p>	5 min	Slide

Slide	Notes	Time	Resources
Slide 4	<p>Key Areas of Emotional Literacy</p> <p>Inform the participants that there are four key areas to emotional literacy. Go through each of the key areas and read out the bullet points.</p> <p>Highlight by working and developing these areas it can help us be more emotionally literate which can have huge benefits to mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Inform participants there is a wealth of information available online if they want to explore emotional literacy and the four key areas in more detail.</p>	10 min	Slide
Activity & Slide 5	<p>What can be the impact on mental health and wellbeing if we do not recognise and manage our emotions effectively?</p> <p>Inform the participants we are now going to explore what the impact can be to our mental health if we do not recognise and manage our emotions effectively.</p> <p>Divide the participants into groups, provide flipchart and pens. Invite them to draw a body outline and to discuss and write down what they think the impact could be on mental health and wellbeing if we do not recognise and manage our emotions effectively.</p> <p>Take feedback from each of the groups, one/two examples from each.</p> <p>Bring up the slide and use this to compare with the feedback from the groups. Inform the participants that the list is not exhaustive.</p> <p>Discussion point: ask the participants how they felt completing this activity?</p> <p>Reiterate that by not recognising and managing our emotions it can have a detrimental impact on our mental health and wellbeing. However if we are self aware it can help us recognise the early signs of stress or strong emotions and help us look at managing these in healthy way.</p>	15 min (10 min activity and 5 min feedback)	Flipchart/pens Slide

Slide	Notes	Time	Resources
Activity & Slide 6	<p>What are the benefits of being emotionally literate?</p> <p>Keep participants in their groups, provide flipchart and pens. Inform them that we are now to explore and discuss what the benefits of being emotionally literate are.</p> <p>Invite them to discuss in their groups what they think the benefits of being emotionally literate are to our mental health and wellbeing?</p> <p>Remind them of the activities they have completed so far, dispelling the myths, the definition of emotionally literacy to help them consider the benefits.</p> <p>Take feedback from the groups, one/two examples from each. Put up the benefits of being emotionally literate slide. Use this to compare with the feedback from the groups. Highlight this list is not exhaustive.</p> <p>Summarise by saying that being emotionally literate can have lots of benefits to our mental health and wellbeing.</p>	15 min (10 min activity, 5 min feedback)	Flipchart/pens
Activity & Slide 7 & 8	<p>How can we develop emotional literacy?</p> <p>Keep the participants in their groups, provide flipchart and pens.</p> <p>Now that we have looked at the benefits of emotional literacy, we are going to explore and consider how we can help develop emotional literacy to promote and support mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>You can put up slide 4 which shows the four key areas of emotional literacy to support this activity.</p> <p>Invite the groups to consider each of the areas and consider how we can develop these. Ask them to write down their ideas and suggestions.</p> <p>Take some feedback from each of the groups, one/two examples from each.</p> <p>Bring up the how we develop emotional literacy slides and read out each bullet point. Inform the participants that these are general suggestions and doesn't give information on detailed activities.</p> <p>Distribute the supporting mental health resources handout (adult or child/youth). Highlight these are general and participants may have knowledge of local resources.</p> <p>Discussion point: are there any local resources that participants would like to share information on?</p>	20 min (15 min activity, 5 min feedback)	Slides Flipchart/pens Mental health resources handout
Activity & Slide 9	Remind the participants of the importance of looking after their own mental health and provide a self-care activity.	5 min	Slide
Session close	Thank the participants for their time and ask them to complete the reflective practice tool	5 min	Reflective practice tool



True or false statements

(please circle)

1. Being emotionally literate is about ignoring challenging and difficult emotions	True/False
2. You can control your feelings	True/False
3. Emotional literacy is something that you have or don't	True/False
4. Emotionally literate people are less likely to get into fights	True/False
5. You can't be emotionally literate if you have a mental health condition	True/False

Emotional Literacy Quiz

Answers

1. Being emotionally literate is about ignoring challenging and difficult emotions	False Emotional literacy is experiencing all of life's emotions and dealing with them. This includes how we deal with the more challenging emotions without being overwhelmed by them.
2. You can control your feelings	False We can't always control how we feel. What we can control is our reaction to those feelings. By becoming aware of how our emotions affect us, and then focusing on our thoughts can help prevent our emotions from causing us to behave irrationally. *Our emotions are own, no one can tell us how we are feeling, no one can make you feel anything. They can influence the situation however your emotional response is your own*
3. Emotional literacy is something that you have or don't	False Emotional literacy isn't a trait or natural talent. It is a skill that anyone can learn.
4. Emotionally literate people are less likely to get into fights	True Individuals who are emotionally literate are able to control extreme emotions and manage them in a healthy way and tend not to lash out or display violent behaviour.
5. You can't be emotionally literate if you have a mental health condition	False If you have a mental health condition, being emotionally literate can improve your ability to cope.