Daisy loves her ball. She chases it around the house, she cuddles with it at nap time, and wherever Daisy goes, her ball goes. When Daisy’s ball is popped by another dog, Daisy is heartbroken. Read this sweet story about sharing and loss and find out what replaces Daisy’s cherished toy.

Did you know?
Getting along with others, recognizing feelings, and expressing them appropriately is all part of Social-Emotional Understanding. Help your child practice by looking at the characters’ faces in A Ball for Daisy and talking about how what the character says or does helps us to know how they feel.

Talk about it!
- At the start of the book ask, “How does Daisy feel about her red ball? How do you know?”
- How does Daisy feel when her ball is popped?
- Can you remember a time that you lost or broke a toy? How did you feel?

Play: Emotional Animals
Naming pretend emotions and practicing embodying them can help children identify their own feelings when they happen for real. Naming emotions is the first step in learning appropriate responses.
- Pick any animal and an emotion or feeling.
- Say the emotion word + animal and make a face or movement that shows how you feel.
- For example, you can say “I’m a Happy Monkey!” and smile and jump up and down, or say “I’m a Tired Chicken,” while yawning and slowly flapping your arms like wings.
- Anyone playing with you will copy you and repeat what you said and did.
- Do this as many times, and with as many animals, as you want! How many different emotion or feeling words can you think of?

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Create!

Shape scavenger hunts are a great activity for critical thinking because children have to think about where to find items, examine objects, and identify key features. Children are also developing shape recognition skills, a component of early mathematics!

While materials are not required, optional materials include paper and a pencil or crayon for your child to write the names of circular objects.

**Daisy’s favorite ball is the shape of a circle. With your child, look for other objects in your house, outside, or wherever you are, that are also circular.**

1. **Talk with your child about Daisy’s ball; ask them if they know what shape it is. Help them correctly answer ‘circle’ if they need help.**

2. **Explain that you will be going on a scavenger hunt to find all the circles you can. Optional: If you have an older child, or you want to practice writing, you can draw a circle and write out the word “circle” on a piece of paper. Then, write down the names of any objects you find that are circular.**

3. **Let your child find as many circular objects as they can!**
   Tip: If a child is having trouble finding circles, help them find one or two to start. You can also look at the book and trace around Daisy’s red ball and explain that a circle is a shape that is round with no edges.

4. **Be creative! There can be lots of hidden shapes in everyday items tucked away in your closets and cupboards (including the knobs on your cupboards).**

5. **Once you’ve found all the circles in one room or area, you can move to another location.**

6. **Expand this game by finding other shapes like rectangles, squares, and triangles!**
How do you feel?

Hopeful  Surprised  Happy  Sad  Mad

Confused  Hurt  Excited  Embarrassed  Scared

Disappointed  Proud  Tired  Worried  Angry