Tips for Drawing Facial Expressions

The Most Important Features

The Eyes - Probably the most important feature for evoking a clear emotion. Utilize the eyelids and eyebrows to create your effect.

The Cheeks - The way they squash and stretch will affect the look and position of the eyes.

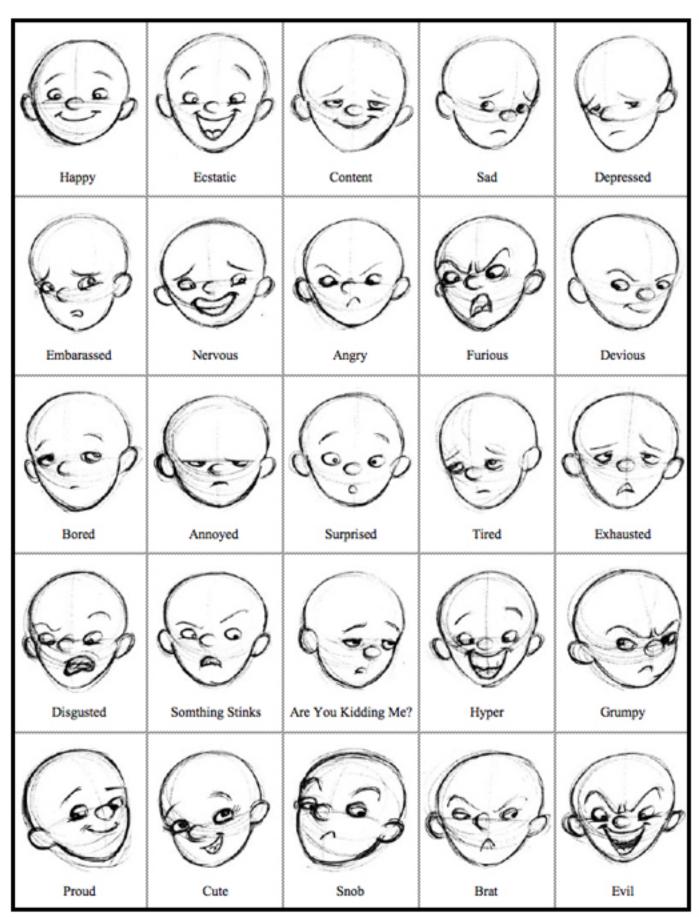
The Mouth - The shape of the mouth is also very important. It affects how the cheeks move and the shape of the entire face.

Additional Tips

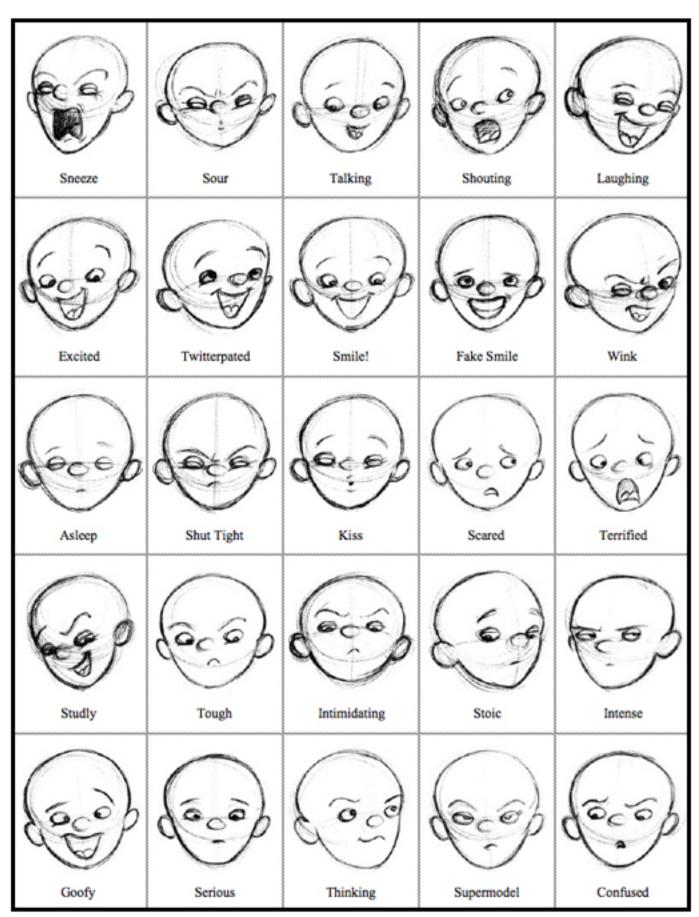
Note that when you move the shape and position of one feature, it affects everything else. Nothing stands completely on its own.

For a stronger drawing and character, really push the expression. Instead of simply drawing a happy person, draw one that is ecstatic; instead of drawing an angry person, draw a furious one.

Have a mirror nearby. When I'm trying to nail down an expression, I often find my own face making weird movements unconsciously. It can make for good reference.



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