

The Stories Behind the Humor: Smile, Laugh, and Be Happy!



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Humor is:

- A form of communication
- Laughing promotes laughter (laugh tracks)
- It has a high reward (Dopamine)
- It has benefits even if faking it! (brain can't distinguish spontaneous or pretend)



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How Much Do We Laugh Each Day???

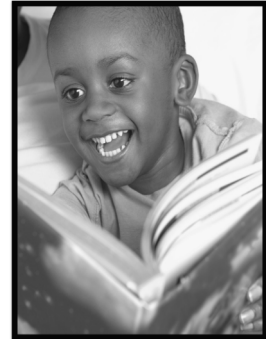
- Children?
- Adults?



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Laughing Out Loud

- ☐ Boosts mood
- ☐ Lowers blood pressure
- ☐ Reduces stress
- ☐ Distracts from pain
- ☐ Brings people together



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Changes In Children's Humor

- Varies in stages of development
- Children are different/Pace varies
- Different experiences and cultures influence humor.

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Humor Changes Across Development

- It is a form of play: playing with ideas, words, sounds, etc.
- Things are the funniest when it is first understood (1-2 years).

Example: Peek-a-Boo



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INFANTS AND TODDLERS

Laughing or Smiling is one of the first response from children to adults



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Here Is The Beehive!

Here is the beehive---where are the bees?
Hidden away where no body sees
Watch and you see them come out of the hive

One, Two, Three, Four, Five
Bzzzzzzzzz

Later anticipation and participating



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Language Humor 2-5

Let's play a GAME!!!

- Identify your body parts
- Make the game funnier
- By identifying "wrong" parts



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Language Play

- Oral Language
- Playing with sounds
- Rhyming
- Creating words
- Repeating phrases/ voices

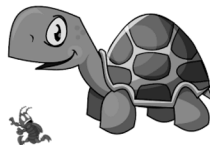


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POEM

There was a little turtle who lived in a box.
He snapped at the mosquito
He snapped at the minnow
He snapped at the flea
He snapped at me

He caught the mosquito
He caught the minnow
He caught the flea
But he didn't catch me!!!!



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Distortion Of Features of Objects, People, and Animals 3-6

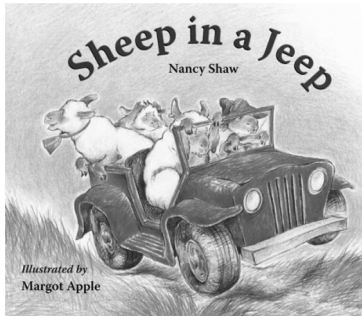
- Cow story



- Add features that don't belong: dog head on man's body. Removing features that do belong.
- But not sure if real or pretend: "Do pigs really fly?"

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SHEEP IN A JEEP (Nancy Shaw)



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Storytelling to 2-5 year olds

Characteristics of effective stories for telling:

- Relates to their experiences
- Limited number of characters
- Lots of action
- Repeated phrases, words, and sentences
- Can include sound effects, gestures, and facial expressions

Examples of good stories for beginning storytellers:

- Three Billie Goats Gruff, Little Red Hen, and Henny Penny
(funny story when first telling Three Billie Goats to 2-3 year olds)

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Benefits Of Telling Stories

- High attention and focus
 - Actively participation in the telling
 - New vocabulary and descriptions
 - Remember the story best that is told
 - High comprehension
 - Can retell the story
- (Funny story of retelling of Millions of Cats)

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Pre-riddle Stage 5-7

Become interested in verbal humor of older children (don't really understand)

They view as arbitrary answers (followed by laughter)

Knock Knock

Who's there?

Piece of bread

Piece of bread---Want another piece of bread.

Laugh when they finish telling---hahaha

The jokes make no sense at all!!!!!!

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Humor Contributes To Young Children's Development

- Builds Vocabulary
- Helps understanding of the world.
- Supports social interactions
- Expands creativity
- Boost self-esteem
- Helps cope with life's stress



Video (if internet is available)

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Creating a Joyful Learning Environment ??



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Some Gleeeful Ideas:

- Greet each child with a smile
- Offer choices throughout the day
- Laugh often
- Display funny pictures and jokes
- Share funny things that happen to you



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Personal stories: Sharing

- Share Director's story
- Discuss meaning
- Child's level of understanding



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Personal Stories

- Builds connections
- Strengthen relationships
- If you can do it - I can!
- Learn to deal with difficult issues
- Visualizing possibilities

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Funny Observations Of Children



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Story: Bathroom Paper Experiment



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Laughing Center: Small Group

- Freedom to laugh and enjoy
- Develop social skills
- Use language in meaningful ways
- Expand vocabulary
- Attach words to objects and concepts.
- Stress relief



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Jokes, Rhymes, and Stories

- “Why did the pig eat three bushels of corn???”

- Asked by 4-year old boy



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Story: The Woman Who Wanted Noise!

- Set the stage: Pose questions
- Introduce character and setting
- Story sequence
- Conclusion
- Revisit questions
- Example: tell story with selected additions.

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Sharing Laughter

- Positive classroom attitude
- Build relationships (teachers and peers)
- Remember the good times
- Learn about each other through happy experiences
- Help children who are having difficulty



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Predicting Future: Understanding Individual Interest?

Observations over time:

Girl who sang everywhere!

Boy who only chose the block center!

Boy who ate everything!

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Encouraging Joy And Laughter

- ✓ Play with the children
- ✓ Sing uplifting songs: This Little Light of Mine
- ✓ Dance, move, and shake
- ✓ Include things you and the children love in your environment (Rocking Chair, favorite songs, stories).



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When Life Gets You Down?

- ❖ Think of funny things that you have observed
- ❖ Adopt a playful attitude
- ❖ Be Able to laugh at yourself.
- ❖ Keep a “funny journal”
- ❖ Laugh with others

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*“You don’t stop laughing
because you grow old...
You grow old because you
stop laughing!”*

Michael Prichard

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When It Comes To Children’s Humor,
There Is No More Delightful Period Than
The Preschool Years

- Take time to enjoy
- Nurture their sense of humor
- Laugh more!



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GET YOUR DAILY
LAUGH REQUIREMENTS:
?? LAUGHS A DAY!



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We Are Working In A Wonderful Period Of Children’s Development

- Laugh
- Love
- Be Happy!

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LET'S SING!
If You're Happy And You Know It



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