

The Stories to Bring Back the Joy and Laughter to Young Children and Their Community: Smile, Giggle, 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 cannot distinguish spontaneous or pretend)



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How Much Do We Laugh Each Day???

<h3>Children?</h3> 	<h3>Adults?</h3> 
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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 influences humor



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Humor Changes Across Development

- It's 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
one of the first
responses from children
to adults

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Language Play


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



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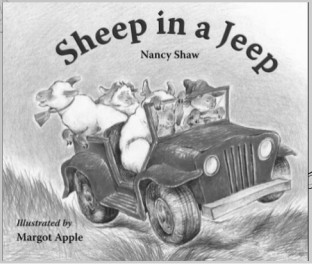
Distortion of Features of Objects, People, and Animals 3-6

- 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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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
- Boosts self-esteem
- Helps cope with life's stress



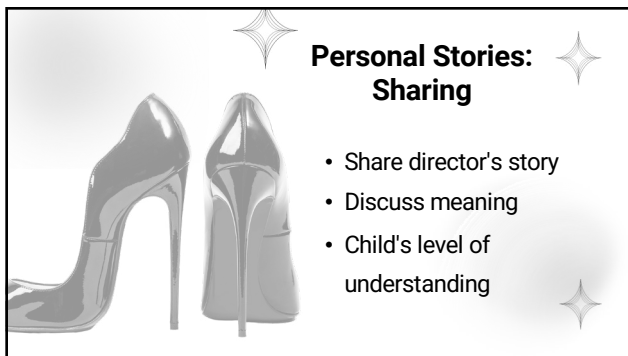
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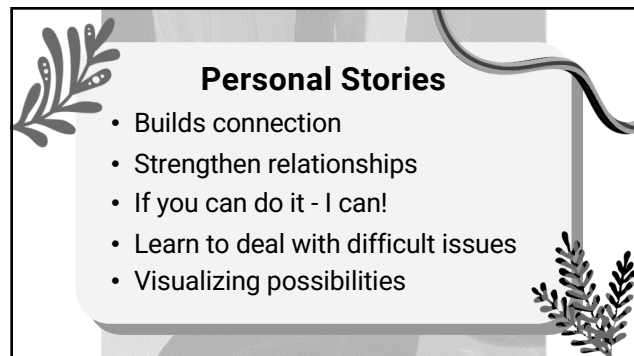
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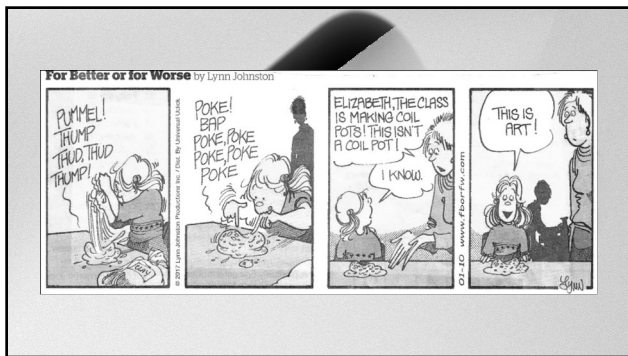
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Laughing Center: Small Group

- 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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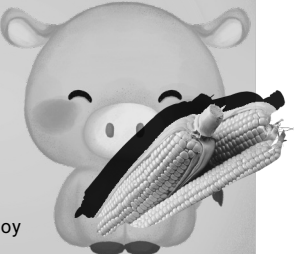


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Jokes, Rhymes, and Stories

"Why did the pig eat three bushels of corn?"


Asked by a 4-year-old boy



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Story: The Gigantic Turnip


- Set the stage: Pose questions
- Introduce character and setting
- Story sequence
- Repetitive phrases
- Conclusion
- Revisit questions



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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
- 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?

- 1 Think of funny things that you have observed
- 2 Adopt a playful attitude
- 3 Be able to laugh at yourself
- 4 Keep a "funny journal"
- 5 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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