

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



Dr. Rebecca Isbell
Website: Drisbell.com

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Humor is:

- A form of communication
- Laughing promotes laughter (laugh tracks)
- What makes us laugh (expect one thing and something else happens)
- 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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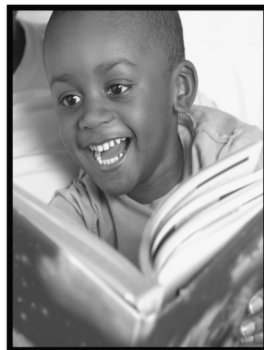


1 MINUTE OF
ANGER WEAKENS
THE IMMUNE
SYSTEM FOR **4-5**
HOURS!!!

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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

- Guidelines for ages/change
- Children are different/Pace varies
- Level of humor reflects intellectual achievements: stages of development
- Different experiences and cultures influence humor.

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Humor Changes Across Development

- It is a form of play: playing with ideas, words, 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
Bzzzzzzzzzz



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Language Humor 2-5

Let's play a GAME!!!

- Identify your body parts



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Language Play

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



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POEM

There was a little turtle who lived in a box.
He snapped at the mosquito
He snapped at the flea
He snapped at me
He caught the mosquito
He caught the flea
But he didn't catch me!!!!



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Playing With Word Sounds (Not Meaning) 3-5

- Repeat sound, change sound, or create a different sound
 - Communication: taking turns
 - "Silly, dilly, willy, squilly".
 - "I want more tato-wata-chatos"
 - Peanut, peanut butter, "and jelly"
 - Variation Peanut, Peanut butter and ?
- Putting words together in funny ways

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

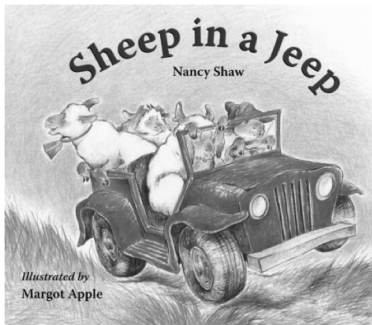
- Cow story



- 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
(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
- Provide open ended activities
- 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 Importance

- 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 though 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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