Humor and Literacy

Laughter is healthy!

Research

- Humor helps build vocabulary and both pre-reading and reading skills
  Especially verbal forms of humor – playing with words, tongue twisters, funny rhymes etc.
- Humor helps solidify the child's knowledge of the world
- Humor supports creative thinking
- Humor supports brain building skills
- Humor boosts popularity and self-esteem
  Humor is very attractive to humans – it’s FUN!
- Humor provides foundational skills that help a person cope with life stress throughout adolescence and adulthood.

Stages of Humor

Stage by Stage: 0 to 2
- A baby's responses to playful physical interactions are her first steps toward humor.
- Memory and imitation help 1-year-olds figure out that it is funny to do something unexpected.
- A toddler's use of symbols and language leads to playing with reality. Incongruities are very funny.

Stage by Stage: 3 to 4
- Threes enjoy sharing their sense of humor with significant adults.
- Preschoolers enjoy making up silly stories.
- Four-year-olds are fascinated by bathroom humor and are not yet completely sensitive to the effect their humor has on others.

Stage by Stage: 5 to 6
- Five- and 6-year-olds' vocabularies have developed to the point where they can play with replacing words in a sentence to see the humor in it.
- Kindergartners develop motor skills that allow them to play with being uncoordinated as a way of sharing humor.
- Five- and 6-year-olds use humor as a way of building friendships and becoming part of the larger group.
Ideas for how to have more fun

◊ Make up or tell funny stories together
◊ Share funny videos
◊ Hold an Apple Tasting - introduce different kinds of apples and taste and judge them
◊ Hold a Cereal Tasting—everyone brings a box of cereal and you judge them on taste, texture, looks, box, etc.
◊ Have a silly hat day or a silly outfit day
◊ Use NY Eve horns and clappers or other funny noisemakers – whoopee cushions never go out of fashion!
◊ Make up silly rhymes with real or nonsense words
◊ Don’t be afraid to be absurd!
◊ Play with tongue twisters
◊ Use the zones in your class and find ways to add humor to them—funny photos, silly noses, silly hats, underpants, funny wigs, silly toys, etc.
◊ Sing Funny songs
◊ Replace key words in familiar songs with absurd words
◊ Sing instructions to children
◊ Dance in funny ways
◊ Look for ways to play with physical humor – tripping, funny walks, flying around the room – etc. - Important for classrooms with dual language learners – so everyone is included.
◊ Be role models – laugh at yourself, actively look for humor that doesn’t hurt anyone
◊ Serve lunch with a bowl on your head
◊ Wear a diaper as a hat
◊ Wear a red nose
◊ Make silly faces in a mirror together
◊ Make funny noises
◊ Share funny books!
◊ Talk with the children at circle time and throughout the day about why they think something is funny
◊ Pareidolia—objects that look like faces

Others

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________
Song and Rhyme Lyrics

This is the Song That Never Ends
This is the song that never ends
It just goes on and on my friends
Some people started singing it not knowing what it was
So they’ll continue singing it forever just because

When You’re Smiling
When you’re smiling
When you’re smiling
The whole world smiles with you
When you’re laughing
When you’re laughing
The sun comes shining through
But when you’re crying
You bring on the rain
So stop your sighing
Be happy again.
Keep on smiling
Cause when you’re smiling
The Whole World Smiles with YOU!

Do Your Ears Hang Low?
Do your ears hang low?
Do they wobble to and fro?
Can you tie them in a knot?
Can you tie them in a bow?
Can you throw them over your shoulder
Like a continental soldier
Do your ears hang low?

Gray Squirrel
Gray Squirrel, gray squirrel
Shake your bushy tail
Gray Squirrel, gray squirrel
Shake your bushy tail
Wrinkle up your little nose
Hold a nut between your toes
Gray Squirrel, gray squirrel
Shake your bushy tail

Bananas Unite
Bananas Unite!
Peel Bananas, Peel, Peel, Bananas
Chop Bananas Chop, Chop, Bananas
Eat Bananas Eat, Eat, Bananas
Go Bananas, Go, Go Bananas!
Bananas Unite!

Boom Chicka Boom
(Call and return)
I said a-boom-chicka-boom,
I said a-boom-chicka-boom,
I said a-boom-chicka-rocka-chicka-rocka-chicka-boom!
Oh yeah?
Uh huh!
Next time -
A little louder!
Repeat verses with new directive each time - a little softer, a
little slower, a little faster and then finish with “the end.”

Little Bunny Foo-Foo
Little Bunny Foo-Foo hopping through the forest,
Scooping up the field mice and bopping them on the
head.
Down came the good fairy and she said:
“Little Bunny Foo-Foo I don’t want to see you,
Scooping up the field mice and bopping them on the
head”
“Now I’m going to give you two more chances,
And then I’ll turn you into a goon.”
Repeat, 1 more chance.
Repeat, no more chances, turn into a goon (make a funny face).
And the moral of the story is: “Hare today, goon tomorrow!”
A Tooty-Ta

CHORUS: A tooty-ta, a tooty-ta, a tooty ta-ta!
A tooty-ta, a tooty-ta, a tooty ta-ta!
Thumbs up, Elbows back
CHORUS
Thumbs up, Elbows back, Knees together
CHORUS
Thumbs up, Elbows back, Knees together, Feet apart
CHORUS
Thumbs up, Elbows back, Knees together, Feet apart, Feet apart
Bottoms up
CHORUS
Thumbs up, Elbows back, Knees together, Feet apart, Feet apart, Tongue out,
CHORUS

Alice the Camel

(Tune: Dem Bones)

Alice the Camel has 5 humps
Alice the Camel has 5 humps
Alice the Camel has 5 humps
Go, Alice, Go!
Alice the Camel has 4 humps...
Alice the Camel has 3 humps...
Alice the Camel has 2 humps...
Alice the Camel has 1 humps...
Alice the Camel has 0 humps...
Because she’s a horse!

Others:

Jelly on a Plate

Jelly on a plate, jelly on a plate
Wibble wobble, wibble wobble, jelly on a plate
Jelly on a plate, jelly on a plate
Wibble wobble, wibble wobble, jelly on a plate

(Let’s cook sausages)

Sizzle in a pan, sausage in a pan
Sizzle sizzle, sizzle sizzle, sizzle sizzle bang!
Sizzle in a pan, sausage in a pan
Sizzle sizzle, sizzle sizzle, sizzle sizzle bang!

(Let’s eat noodles)

Noodles on a fork, noodles on a fork
Twirly wirly, twirly wirly, noodles on a fork
Noodles on a fork, noodles on a fork
Twirly wirly, twirly wirly, noodles on a fork

(Let’s eat popcorn, I love popcorn!)

Popcorn in a pot, popcorn in a pot
Popping popping, never stopping, popcorn in a pot
Popcorn in a pot, popcorn in a pot
Popping popping, never stopping, popcorn in a pot

(Oh, smooth honey)

Honey on a spoon, honey on a spoon
Runny honey, runny honey, honey on a spoon
Honey on a spoon, honey on a spoon
Runny honey, runny honey, honey on a spoon

(Jelly! Everybody wibble wobble!)

Jelly on a plate, jelly on a plate
Wibble wobble, wibble wobble, jelly on a plate.
Jelly on a plate, jelly on a plate
Wibble wobble, wibble wobble, jelly on a plate.

(Everybody wibble wobble!)
Tongue Twisters

A Tutor Who Tooted a Flute
A Tutor who tooted a flute
Tried to tutor two tooters to toot
Said the two to their tutor
Is it harder to toot
Or to tutor two tooters to toot?

Fuzzy Wuzzy
Fuzzy Wuzzy was a bear
Fuzzy Wuzzy had no hair
Fuzzy Wuzzy wasn’t fuzzy
Was he?

Six Sick Sheep
The sixth sick Sheik’s sixth sheep’s sick.

Betty Botter
Betty Botter bought some butter
But she said the butter’s bitter
If I put it in my batter,
it will make my batter bitter
But a bit of better butter
will make my batter better
So ’twas better Betty Botter bought a bit of better butter!

Billy Button
Bill Button bought a butter’d biscuit;
Did Billy Button buy a butter’d biscuit?
If Billy Button bought a butter’d biscuit,
Where’s the butter’d biscuit Billy Button bought?

Cinnamon
Cinnamon, aluminum, linoleum.

A Big Bug
A big bug bit the little beetle
But the little beetle bit the big bug back.

Leather
Lesser leather never
weathered wetter
weather better

Freaky Fred
If Freaky Fred Found Fifty Feet of Fruit
And Fed Forty Feet to his Friend Frank
How many Feet of Fruit did Freaky Fred Find?

Gray Goats
Growing gray goats
graze great green grassy groves.

The Sun
We surely shall see the sun shine soon

Peter Piper
Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers
A peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked
If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers
Where’s the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?

The Oyster
Any noise annoys an oyster
But a noisy noise annoys an oyster more.
Fred fed Ted bread, and Ted fed Fred bread

Swan Swam Over the Sea
Swan swam over the sea,
Swim, swan, swim!
Swan swam back again
Well swum, swan!

Sport Shop
Does your sport shop stock short socks with spots?

One-One and Two-Two
One-One was a racehorse.
Two-Two was one, too.
When One-One won one race,
Two-Two won one, too.

Six Socks
Six socks sit in a sink, soaking in soap suds
Beautiful Monkey

Little Monkey drew a picture of his mother. He was very proud of his drawing and couldn’t wait to get home and give it to her.

Along the way home, he saw his friend, Owl. “What a beautiful picture!” said Owl. “Just one thing—the eyes should be a little bigger!”

So Little Monkey made the eyes a little larger.

As Little Monkey continued on his way, he saw his friend, Giraffe. Giraffe said, “What a beautiful picture! Just one thing—the neck should be a little longer.”

So Little Monkey made the neck a little longer.

As Little Monkey continued on his way, he saw his friend, Crocodile. Crocodile said, “What a beautiful picture! Just one thing—the teeth should be a little sharper.”

So Little Monkey made the teeth sharper.

As Little Monkey continued on his way, he saw his friend, Rabbit. Rabbit said, “What a beautiful picture! Just one thing—the ears should be a little bigger.”

So Little Monkey made the ears bigger.

As Little Monkey continued on his way, he saw his friend, Lion. Lion said, “What a beautiful picture! Just one thing—you’ve forgotten the fluffy mane.”

So Little Monkey added a fluffy mane.

As Little Monkey continued on his way, he saw his friend, Elephant. Elephant said, “What a beautiful picture! Just one thing—her nose is much too small.”

So Little Monkey made the nose bigger.

Little Monkey didn’t see anyone else until he got home, where his Mother was waiting for him.

“Look Mama, I drew a picture of you!”

And do you know what his Mother said?

“I Love it! It’s just beautiful!

Magalina Hagalina

There was a funny girl, she had a funny name
She got it from her pappy just the same, same, same.
Magalina Hagalina Alka-Walka-Talka-Walka
Oaka-Moka-Poka was her name (clap, clap).

She had ten hairs on the top of her head
Five were alive and the other five were dead.
Magalina Hagalina Alka-Walka-Talka-Walka
Oaka-Moka-Poka was her name (clap, clap).

She had two eyes in the front of her head
One was green and the other was red.
Magalina Hagalina Alka-Walka-Talka-Walka
Oaka-Moka-Poka was her name (clap, clap).

She had two ears on the side of her head
One was made of pumpkin and the other made of bread.
Magalina Hagalina Alka-Walka-Talka-Walka
Oaka-Moka-Poka was her name (clap, clap).

She had two teeth in the middle of her mouth
One pointed north and the other pointed south.
Magalina Hagalina Alka-Walka-Talka-Walka
Oaka-Moka-Poka was her name (clap, clap).

Brown Bun

Brown Bun, Brown Bun, What Do You See?
I see a brown burger looking at me.
Brown Burger, brown burger, what do you see?
I see some orange cheese looking at me.
Orange cheese, orange cheese what do you see?
I see some yellow mustard looking at me.
Yellow mustard, yellow mustard what do you see?
I see some red tomatoes looking at me.
Red Tomatoes, red tomatoes what do you see?
I see some green pickles looking at me.
Green Pickles, green pickles what do you see?
I see some green lettuce looking at me.
Green Lettuce, green lettuce what do you see?
I see a brown bun looking at me.
Brown Bun, brown bun, what do you see?
I see a mouth coming to eat me!!!!
Funny Books

A Birthday for Cow by Jan Thomas
A Hat for Minerva Louise by Janet Stoeke
Animals Should Definitely Not Wear Clothing by Judi Barrett
Bark, George by Jules Feiffer
The Boss Baby by Marla Frazee
Bunnies! by Kevan Atteberry
The Cake that Mack Ate by Rose Robart
Can You Make a Scary Face? by Jan Thomas
Diary of a Wombat by Jackie French
Dinosaur Vs. Bedtime by Bob Shea
Duck! Rabbit! by Amy Krouse Rosenthal
Everyone Loves Bacon by Kelly DiPucchio
Fall is Not Easy by Marty Kelley
Frog on a Log by Kes Gray
Good Night, Gorilla by Peggy Rathman
Goodnight Already by Jory John
Hi Pizza Man! by Virginia Walter
Hippospotamus by Jeanne Willis
I Want My Hat Back by Jon Klassen
I’m Bad! by Kate and Jim McMullan
I’m the Biggest Thing in the Ocean by Kevin Sherry
Just Like Daddy by Frank Asch
Lady Pancake and Sir French Toast by Josh Funk
Latke Who Couldn’t Stop Screaming by Lemony Snicket
Leave Me Alone! by Vera Brosgol
The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry and the Big Hungry Bear by Audrey Wood
Look by Jeff Mack
Marc Just Couldn’t Sleep by Gabriela Keselman
Monkey and the Bee by C. P. Bloom
Moo! by David LaRochelle
Mr. Putney’s Quacking Dog by Jon Agee
Funny Books (cont.)

Mrs. McNosh and the Great, Big Squash by Sarah Weeks
Mrs. McNosh Hangs up Her Wash by Sarah Weeks
My Pictures After the Storm by Éric Veillé
Oh No, Gotta Go by Susan Middleton Elya
Penguin Problems by Jory John
Pizza Pat by Rita Gelman
Roller Coaster by Marla Frazee
Sam and Dave Dig a Hole by Mac Barnett
Shark in the Park by Nick Sharrat
That is NOT a Good Idea by Mo Willems
This is Not My Hat by Jon Klassen
Triangle by Mac Barnett
Underwater Dogs: Kid’s Edition by Seth Casteel
Up, Tall, and High by Ethan Long
We Found a Hat by Jon Klassen
Where’s My Teddy? by Jez Alborough
Where’s Walrus? by Stephen Savage
The Wolf’s Chicken Stew by Keiko Kasza

Susan Anderson-Newham
Early Learning Supervising Librarian
Pierce County Library
(253) 548-3424
susana@piercecountylibrary.org