

Is my child humorous?

Crack your own joke, tell funny stories and laugh loud along with your child for a better cognitive development

Prasad, a software professional was on a tour to New Delhi. While on his way back to Mumbai, he came across a big book exhibition and decided to check books of his interest. A section on children's book brought his attention to few comic books and he bought a couple of comic books for his 4 years old daughter, Shaily. He liked a particular book on which a picture on the cover page depicting a pig with spectacles on her eyes teaching in a class. With the books, Prasad took the flight and reached home on the weekend. He quickly unwrapped the books and handed over to Shaily. She took the books and kept it aside without having any response. This made Prasad a bit surprised. He thought to spend some more time with his daughter later with the books. Couple of days later when Prasad got the book in front of

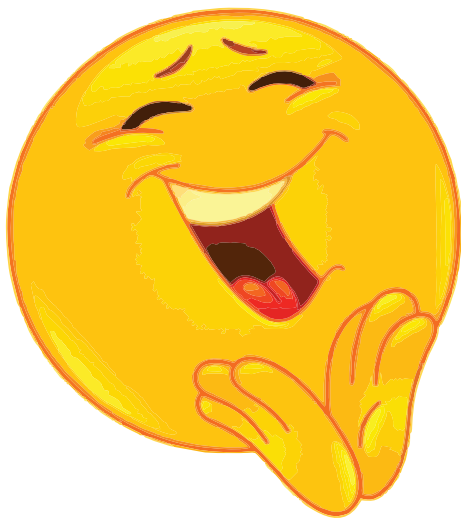
Shaily and talked about the pig's intention to teach kids in a very funny tone, the reaction of shaily was not quite humorous.



Our Lesson Today would be taught by Mrs. Piggy

Is this a matter of concern when our kids are not responding with fun when a funny and humorous activity is presented?

Being humorous is connected to child's overall development. Many research has already established the fact that children's inability to grasp a funny picture or an ironic phrase is connected with their difficulty in inferring the inherent belief and intention of being humorous. Jokes and ironic situations are completely different than a well-accepted reality. From the cognitive point of view humour is defined as the discovery of some incongruity with respect to reality¹. From the development prospective, the child's ability to understand humour is related to their capability in constructing symbolic representation to the reality.



¹Angeleri R and Airenti; The development of Joke and Irony understanding; A study with 3 to 6 year old children; Canadian Journal of Experimental Psychology, 2014, Vol.68, No.2;133-146

Things to keep it in your mind

In a normal circumstances, the children respond to the jokes (either in visuals or in verbally spoken) with laughs and amusement sign in the face as such things are unexpected incongruous in respect to reality.



Around 90% of kids in the age group of 3 and 4 years are able to understand the intent in a humourous event and almost all the kids in the age group of 5 and 6 completely understand a joke in visual and spoken forms².



Parents and teachers must ensure that our children understand the jokes quite easily and also involve in creating and delivering jokes.

²Angeleri R and Airenti; The development of Joke and Irony understanding; A study with 3 to 6 year old children; Canadian Journal of Experimental Psychology, 2014, Vol.68, No.2:133-146

Activity

Lets have an activity at school or home;

Bring two dolls. Give them some name.

lets say Elly and Dolly.

Parents or teacher may mimic a comic voice for Elly and Dolly.



Teacher or parent may start the activity by making Elly's face funny in different ways and make both Elly and Dolly laugh aloud. Dolly (in laughter) is saying, "Ah, what funny faces. (further laughs)

Is your child is also laughing and enjoying the joke?

If no, Parents or teacher may ask the child, "Why did Dolly say that?"

If the child replies, "I do not know". Or "they are laughing" then the child needs more attention from parents and teachers to get her/him engaged in lot of fun activities.



It is important to make the child enjoys even small jokes and remain in a play full mode. It is crucial for the family members to have some quality time together to have fun as a family. Also make a jovial environment in the house, play activities and games, and watch funny movies together.

Benefits of being humorous

Understanding and appreciating jokes and humours activities help in multiple ways. Few of the benefits are as follows;

- ★ The child would develop skills to look things from many perspectives



- ★ The child would be more in present

- ★ The child's reaction to any situation would be more spontaneous. The child would grasp unconventional ideas thus helps in inculcating out of box thinking



- ★ The child develops thinking skill beyond obvious

- ★ The child would be more participative in activities



- ★ The child would develop skills not to take things too seriously

- ★ Better bonding with parents