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Laughter is triggered when we find something humorous. There are three traditional theories about what we consider humorous: The theory of incompatibility suggests that humor occurs when logic and familiarity are replaced by things that don't usually go hand in hand. Researcher Thomas Veatch says that a joke becomes funny when we expect one result and another. When the joke begins, our minds and bodies already anticipate what will happen and how it will end. This expectation takes the form of logical thought interspersed with emotions and is influenced by our past experiences and our thought processes. When a joke goes in an unexpected direction, our thoughts and emotions suddenly have to change gears. We now have new emotions, backing up another line of thought. In other words, we experience two sets of incompatible thoughts and emotions at the same time. We feel better than this person, we experience a certain detachment from the situation and so we are able to laugh at it. The theory of relief is the basis for filmmakers devices used effectively for a long time. In action movies or thrillers where the tension is high, the director uses comic relief at the right time. It builds tension or tension as much as possible and then smashes it a bit with side commentary, allowing the viewer to free themselves from the pent-up excitement so the video can build it up again! Similarly, the actual story or situation creates tension within us. When we try to deal with two sets of emotions and thoughts, we need release, and laughter is a way of cleaning up our system of increasing tension and incompatibility. (According to Dr. Lisa Rosenberg, humor, especially dark humor, can help employees cope in stressful situations. The act of creating humor, joking, gives us a mental break and increases our objectivity in the face of overwhelming stress, he says.) Then we'll find out why we don't all think the same things are funny. Go to content Nurturing a child's sense of humor is not a joke. Loud laughter - and often - is a healthy way for her to cope with the small stresses of life. During a friend's visit a few years ago, my daughter, Samantha, then 1, fell into a deep belly laughing. Sure, it cracked earlier, but this time it was different. No one even laughed. Instead, what sent her into a rush of giggles was watching my friend's dog jump up and down over and over again. While it's not as fun as the one-liners on Friends, the jumping dog was an unusual sight for Samantha - and therefore worthy of a hearty giggle. At about 1 year of age, after months of following the smiles and laughter of the people around them, the little ones begin to reveal their own sense of humor. Their snickers mark an important milestone in development and are a clear reflection of the wits they acquire. The sense of humor is directly related to a child's cognitive development, says Dr. Kori Skidmore, a child psychologist at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Humor develops with the improvement of your toddler's memory, and she understands (and recalls) that the world works in a certain way, with predictable order, structure and patterns. When something harmless happens that doesn't fit those expectations - like when trying to wear shoes - she is now aware of the incompatibility and may find this act hysterical. Most children inherit their funny bone from their parents, experts say. Moms and dads who have a good sense of humor usually produce kids who do it too. But the child's environment also has a huge impact. Caregivers, who often laugh or joke, serve as role models, giving a small little one the opportunity to imitate humor. Even a young child learns to recognize his early attempts to be funny and laugh at him, says Dr. Doris Bergen, professor of educational psychology at the University of Miami in Oxford, Ohio. Funny interactions teach the toddler to appreciate the lighter side of life and see the incompatibility in everyday situations. When he laughs, use words to describe the situation (It's a silly face! or Elmo Dance is funny!), so your little one learns to use language at a humorous event. If you laugh easily and use warm, trust-building tone in games like peekaboo, your child will enjoy the humor too. Nothing is too chaotic for a toddler, but here's what usually makes 1-year-olds laugh. Funny. So far, your child has developed a routine and knows what to expect from their world. When you do something unusual (without scaring her), she may find it humorous, Dr. Skidmore says. Completely inane acts, such as wearing toddler pants on your head while changing diapers (like my husband used to), can trigger giggles. These pants, she now knows, belong to her legs, not her head. Predictable surprise. Infants and young children spend months mastering the idea of the durability of objects: the concept that things and people exist even when they are out of sight. Games like peekaboo reinforce this notion of how the world works. Your child now knows that you are hiding behind a chair, and when you confirm your suspicions by popping up jokingly, she will be delighted and will express this feeling with laughter. Absurd humor. Your toddler can also gig-gle on things that should be in a certain way but are not. There comes a visual mismatch - if your child sees a picture of a dog wearing a fluffy hat, for example, he can laugh, says Dr. Bergen. The ability to detect this non-compliance develops at the age of 11/2 or 2. Later, your child will crack in inaccuracies in the tongue (as when dad's name is Mom). And in kindergarten, when humor becomes more conceptual, you will laugh at playing words in a knock-knock joke, for example. Nurturing a child's emerging ability to humor is like presenting him with a gift for life. Laughter is a pleasure mechanism and a powerful tool for dealing with difficult moments of life, Dr Skidmore points out. Although having a good sense of humor may not necessarily make children smarter, it will enrich their lives. If your 1-year-old throws a tantrum at a nap, de-fuse the situation with humor: Nibble on your stomach as you take it to your cot, for example. In her daily routine, teach her to embrace the stupid side of life. Make kooky faces or slap stickers on your nose to trigger giggles. © Copyright . All rights reserved. Printed from this link is to an external site that may or may not meet accessibility guidelines. Go to content Three-year-olds love alphabet books and silly songs. How to use the joy of the rhythm and sound of the child? Preschoolers usually love to invent new words, create funny sentences, repeat rhymes and sing silly songs. And many will happily sit for a long period of time listening to someone read. They especially like poetry, alphabet books, simple puzzles and guessing books. Even if they don't understand every word, they delight in sounds and rhythms. Threeyear-olds also tend to use stories about everyday things, animals and children, as well as books that discuss issues such as learning to share, befriending, going to school and using pot pots. They help them put in words and think about many of their fears, ideas and feelings. Don't be surprised if your child asks you to read a particular book over and over again and don't take it personally if it bursts into tears if you accidentally skip or change a word. Her desire to hear the book exactly the same every time is a good sign that she builds language skills and memory. Use this by encouraging your child to end certain sentences or clarify photos. Reading aloud to your child and then talking about what you've just read is one of the most effective ways to help a preschooo teacher sharpen his language skills. Research shows that when preschool children are read daily, they do better at school and develop above-average verbal abilities. In fact, it seems that the more interactions between parents and very young children, the better children's later vocabulary and IQ results. However, do not expose flash cards or scrupulously improve its pronunciation or grammar. These strategies can inhibit the development of speech, making the child feel self-conscious or bad when he makes a mistake. Here are more productive ways to help. Talk to your child as much as possible. Tell him what you are doing; ask him questions about past activities or friends, relatives and places he has visited; describe his behavior (You make a bad face); explain the schedule of the day. Avoid monologue, however. Your child's speech or mimic your child's speech or mimic your child must join in their own thoughts. Do not use your child must join in their own the your child must join in the your child must joi child tries to tell you something. Rushing his speech will fetter both thoughts and learning, while careful listening tells your child that you're really interested in what he's trying to say. If he has trouble finding the right word, it is okay to help him in a gentle way, but not put all the words in his mouth. React with care to your child. If you let her gibberish away while mumble, Uh-huh or How nice, she'll get the message that you're not interested in what she has to say. Play word games. Guessing games are fun and help your child use words while learning things like colors, shapes, sizes and names. When you play together, you can encourage him by asking: What shape does the triangle have? or What shape does the hat have? See what you say. Preschoolers take words very literally - and personally. If you become frustrated, avoid saying: You're driving me crazy! Instead, say: This game is starting to drive me crazy! Instead, say: This game is starting to drive me crazy. This way she will know that you still love her. © Copyright. All rights reserved. Printed from this link is to an external site that may or may not meet accessibility guidelines. Guidelines.

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