

Joking Around! Humour as a tool

When humour and riddles are part of the pedagogy everyone in the school can benefit. Children who laugh in the classroom share a common positive emotional experience with each other and their teacher. When children laugh in groups, this can help create strong relationships with their classmates and teachers. Humour and riddles can include opportunities to:

- develop and practice vocabulary
- develop strong communication skills
- develop critical thinking skills
- develop friendships and relationships
- stimulate creativity and creative understanding
- develop resilience
- increasing children's awareness and participation
- improving retention of information
- develop appreciation of humour

It can easily be linked to the curriculum and many resources are available for teachers and parents.

Some children with communication difficulties may struggle to understand humour. These children can find it difficult to understand social cues, making it difficult for them to know when it may be appropriate to tell a joke.

It can also be difficult for them differentiate between what is or isn't a joke. These children may need adult support to understand humour. Further information on why humour is difficult for some children, and ideas for how you can help can be found here:

<https://talkingtalk.co.za/just-joking-language-and-humor/>



Riddles, Silly Sentences and Nonsense Words!

NEPS have some very useful guidelines, hand-outs and tips for teachers and parents. These books are full of activities which include silly sentences, speculating on the meaning of nonsense words, using nonsense words and riddles.

Riddle Example: *This is a word that rhymes with bake. I'm delicious to eat because I'm a ...(cake)*

Silly Sentence Example: Make silly sentence sensible by changing one or two words: *I'm hungry because I can't find my coat.*

Nonsense Words Example: Speculate on the meaning of nonsense words used in sentences and then give the child an opportunity to put it in a sentence. *Bring me the franstran, I wonder what that could mean...could we put it in a different sentence.*

Activities to Develop Expressive Language Skills Primary 7 yrs+:

<https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Services/National-Educational-Psychological-Service-NEPS-/NEPS-Guides/Language-Skills/Activities-Develop-Expressive-Language-Skills-Prim-7years.pdf>

Activities to Develop Receptive Language & Comprehension Skills Primary 7 yrs+:

<https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Services/National-Educational-Psychological-Service-NEPS-/NEPS-Guides/Language-Skills/Activities-Develop-Receptive-Language-and-Comprehension-Skills-prim7.pdf>

Other Ideas

- Ask children to discuss or recommend a funny film
- Read books that children find funny, ask them to talk about why they are funny.
- Humorous quotes
- Cartoons or add captions perhaps as group activities and share
- 'present a joke' day (screening may be recommended)
- Develop and encourage humorous writing assignments – why would find it funny....

Links with Curriculum

The possibilities for linking humour and riddles with curriculum are immense.

	Oral Language	Reading	Writing
Communicating	Engagement, listening & attention	Engagement	
	Motivation & choice		
	Social conventions & awareness of others		
Understanding	Sentence structure & grammar	Conventions of print & sentence structure	
	Vocabulary		
	Demonstration of understanding	Phonics, word recognition & word study	Spelling & word study
		Phonological & phonemic awareness	
Exploring & Using	Requests, questions & interactions	Purpose, genre & voice	
	Categorisation	Comprehension	Writing process & creating text
	Retelling & elaboration	Response & author's intent	
	Playful & creative use of language	Fluency & self-correction	Handwriting & presentation
	Information giving, explanation & justification		
	Description, prediction & reflection		

Example Jokes

Teacher Jokes

Why did the teacher go to the beach?

To test the water!

Why did the teacher write on the window?
clear!

Because he wanted the lesson to be very

Maths Jokes

What is a maths teacher's favourite thing to eat?

Pi!

Where do maths teachers go on holidays?

Times Square!

Why was six afraid of seven?

Because 7,8,9!

Why is it dangerous to do maths in the wild?

Because if you add 4 and 4 you get ate!

What is the shortest month?

May, it only has three letters!

Which month has 28 days?

Every month!

Pirate Jokes

What is a pirate's favourite subject?

Arrrrt!

What did the pirate say on his 80th birthday?

Aye, Matey!

Animal and Nature Jokes

Why was the egg so afraid to go to school?

He was a little chicken!

Why do fish never go on holidays?

Because they are always in school!

How do fish get to school?

On an Octopus!

What is a snake's favourite subject in school?

Hisssss-tory!

What is a tree's least favourite month?

Sep-timber

Why did the banana not go to school?

He wasn't peeling well!

Other School Jokes

Why was the brush late for school?

He over-swept!

Did you hear about the kid-napping at school?

It is ok, he woke up!

In what school do you learn how to greet people? '

Hi' School

What's the only school where you have to drop out to graduate? Skydiving school!