

# How A Sense of Humor Develops



A sense of humor is not necessarily a personality trait.

A child's sense of humor develops over time. There are things that parents can do to encourage humor. This can give kids resilience.

## Babies

Babies may not yet understand humor but they like to see smiling happy faces or to be tickled. Older babies can also understand when something is silly, like their dad quacking like a duck.



## Toddlers

Toddlers have a very physical sense of humor. Peek-a-boo or unexpected silly faces are super funny to them. As they develop their language skills, silly poems or jokes will get them laughing.



## Preschoolers

Preschoolers like to make up silly stories. They also like to share humor as they become more social. Things that are incongruous, like a mouse that roars, are especially funny.



## School-Age Kids

As children get older they will come to appreciate jokes. More things will become funny as they are better able to appreciate what is humorous. Kids may also develop an appreciation of sarcasm and wit.



## Encouraging Humor in Kids



**Model humor.** Tell jokes, laugh, be silly. Have fun!



**Read funny stories.** And jokes, riddles, and funny poems.



**Listen to your child's jokes.** Let them know they are funny.