

DOMAIN 3: SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**SUB-DOMAIN: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT****PRAGMATIC BEHAVIOR****GOAL 33: CHILDREN DEVELOP A SENSE OF HUMOR.**

Age Range	Developmental Growth	Child Indicators	Caregiver Strategies
16 to 38 Months	Uses language and body to initiate social humor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Laughs at and initiates incongruities/ mismatches including visual and spoken situations (e.g. pants on head, cow says, "quack"). ▪ Uses knowledge to allow flexibility for humor. ▪ Uses social referencing to gauge reactions for absurd situations. ▪ Participates in group glee, where the glee is more about being a part of the group's pleasure than understanding an absurdity. ▪ Engages in give and take in creating humorous events (e.g. chase, absurd body movements, gestures, facial expressions). ▪ Exhibits physical humor (e.g. dancing, falling down, crawling, looking backward through legs). ▪ In the latter months of this age range uses word play (e.g. repetition, absurdity, opposites in meaning, mixed up syllables). ▪ Imitates humorous situations. ▪ Makes animal sounds. ▪ Mimics adults as they laugh, with or without knowing the reason for the laughter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow the child's cues for engaging in humor. ▪ Watch child's cues to know when to stop and protect child when body humor is being used (e.g. chasing, roughhousing). ▪ Acknowledge child's attempts to understand and participate in humorous situations. When a child laughs along with adults, whether the child understands the humor or not, smile with the child. Avoid shaming a child or demeaning a child's attempts at joining in the laughter. ▪ Recite and alter simple rhymes and songs, adding absurdities and inviting children to create absurdities. ▪ Use joint attention, social referencing, and reciprocation to know when child sees the humor in a situation. ▪ Use amused look to communicate humor. ▪ Use humor to extend interactions and glee. ▪ With children in the late stages of this age range, clarify social cues between peers when humor is misunderstood. ▪ Avoid tickling young children. Tickling is unpleasant and over stimulating, especially when the person tickling is in control of the start and stopping of the stimulation, and much stronger than the child.