

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
<p>6 to 18 Months</p>	<p>Initiates and responds to caregiver with smiles and laughter. Responds to absurdity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shows attraction to incongruity, such as novel sounds and funny faces from familiar people. ▪ Anticipates favorite routines. ▪ Begins to understand physical humor (e.g. falling down, laughing, and bending over to look between legs). ▪ With adult reassurance, recovers, accepts, and approaches surprises and changes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop secure relationships and trust by using consistent, responsive, gentle caregiving. ▪ Offer social referencing to babies with delight and smiles when pleasant changes and surprises occur (e.g. model delight and laughter, and a sense of humor as humorous events occur). ▪ Provide absurd situations and laugh as you do them (e.g. put a hat on upside down, put a dollop of soap on your nose, put a cup on your head). ▪ Playfully move, touch, and caress toes, fingers, arms, and legs, watching child's cues to know when to stop. Offer activities that become routines (e.g. putting on pants after diapering while singing a rhyme, "Diaper on your body, socks on your feet, pants on your legs." Later, change that around to an absurdity, "Diaper on, beans on, pants on."). ▪ Incorporate playfulness into fun routines (e.g. happy chase games, on-off, and dump-fill games). ▪ Respond when child initiates play and watches for your response. ▪ Watch and read baby's cues to know when to stop a stimulating activity. ▪ Use simple rhymes and songs that offer fun and humor. ▪ Initiate humorous play with silly gestures or novel sounds. ▪ Use surprising sounds or facial expressions in play to elicit laughter. ▪ Be aware of cultural differences in humor and touch.