



PARENTAL READINESS AND
EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

A PROGRAM OF
THE LAWYERS'
COMMITTEE FOR
CIVIL RIGHTS

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NEWSLETTER

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Laughing Helps You Learn!



April Fools Day

April Fool's!

April first is known around the world as April fool's Day. It is a time to play harmful pranks and silly jokes on your closest friends and family. April fool's fun can include things such as putting a whoopee cushion on someone's chair or putting a fake bug on someone's desk. These pranks are harmless and fun and generally create laughter!



The Science of How Humor Helps you Learn

According to the American Psychological Association, students are more likely to recall a lecture or a lesson if it was combined with funny jokes about relevant topics that they are familiar with.

Cracking Jokes in the Classroom

An example of how humor and entertainment can positively affect a child's ability to learn and retain information is the show Sesame Street. Characters like Big Bird, Elmo, and Cookie Monster, have been teaching kids about numbers, letters, colors, and objects, using entertainment and jokes they can understand.

Laugh Your Way Through April

Let April Fool's Day set the tone for the rest of the month. Try and incorporate jokes, funny stories, and other entertainment into your lessons and your lectures. Teach your children or your students about April Fool's Day and how important laughter and humor is. Start each morning off with a knock knock joke to get your kids energized and engaged.



Director's Comments

Everyone in school benefits from humor. We are always on the lookout for fun ways to engage and inspire students. A positive climate for learning and enjoyment, is correlated with retention of information and putting knowledge to work in everyday situations. Educators and parents can better connect and engage with their children by doing simple things that generate creativity, engagement, interest, happiness, and laughter. Laughter creates a variety of benefits in a classroom or other learning environment. Laughing together can help build trust by creating a commonality and bond, laughing relieves tension between teachers and students as well as fellow classmates. Laughter can motivate students to behave because it promotes positivity. Happiness reinforces hard and diligent work and can help in producing better outcomes. Be aware of the humor you use. Make sure that it is age appropriate, non-discriminatory and inclusive. A healthy, happy classroom culture or learning environment can have a dramatic effect on a students achievement.

In other news...

We are working diligently to protect immigrant children and their right to a free public education. At the end of March, we attended a workshop sponsored by the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers to discuss the 1982 Supreme Court ruling *Plyler v. Doe* case which entitles every child to a public education, regardless of immigration status. There were numerous heart wrenching stories that inspire us to concentrate our efforts and address this the threats to immigrant children in the United States and ensure their protection..

Natasha Quiroga is PREP Manager and Senior Counsel for the Educational Opportunities Project.

www.PREPParents.org

PREP Resources

NOW PLAYING...

VIDEO TUTORIALS

- ♦ *Parent Advocacy*
- ♦ *Navigating the School System*
- ♦ *Special Education*
- ♦ *English Language Learners*

www.youtube.com/prepparents

STATE-SPECIFIC PARENT GUIDES

- ♦ *On education law and policies*

www.prepparents.org/resources/for-parents/

RECORDED WEBINARS

- ♦ *Parent advocacy*
- ♦ *Mobilization*
- ♦ *Special Education Process*
- ♦ *School Discipline*
- ♦ *Bullying*
- ♦ *English Language Learners*

www.prepparents.org/webinar

Have questions about special education, school discipline, English learners, Bullying, or discrimination-related issues? Are you a parent in California or New York? Check out our newly launched e-Clinic!

prepparents.org/appointments



PEP TALK FROM PREP!

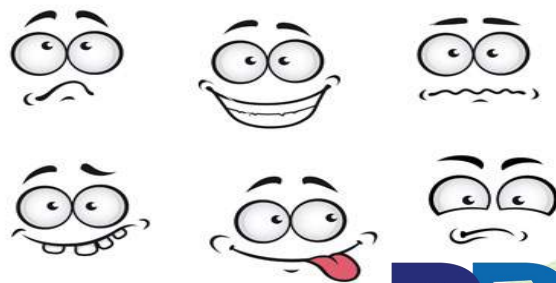
Tips for making the classroom fun!

Teach your kids about science by telling a funny story or doing a fun activity!
For example: When teaching about Spring Showers and the weather system, tell a story about a time that you got caught in the rain or take them outside to splash and stomp in the puddles.



Start a discussion with your kids by asking them about a time they have been pranked or a time they pranked someone! Talk about the difference between a harmless prank and being mean.

Help your kids do activities to relax and relieve stress! Before or after a long car ride have them stand up and make big movements to get active and make silly faces to make them laugh!



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