



Baby Laughter

Your baby may start to laugh at 3 to 4 months of age. This is a fun and exciting time! Your baby is developing a sense of humour!

You can use laughter to engage your child and to respond to your baby's requests for "more". This interaction is a type of "conversation" (you do something, baby laughs, you do it again, and on and on, until the game stops). Here are some more ideas to try with baby:

- **Live Jack-in-the-Box:**
Dad gets in a large cardboard box. Mom sings "Pop Goes the Weasel". When you get to the last line, Dad jumps out of the box.
- **This Little Piggy:**
This rhyme is probably part of your collection already. The line "Wee Wee Wee all the way home" usually brings on a giggle.
- **Daddy's Snoring:**
Lay on the floor, pretending to sleep, making exaggerated snores. Each time baby touches Dad, he sits up, pretending to wake up in surprise.
- **The Exaggerated Sneeze:**
Fake a sneeze that takes a long time to arrive. "Ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-Choo!"
- **Peek-A-Boo:**
Place your hands over your eyes or over baby's eyes. Remove hands and say "Pee-ee-ek". Try using a blanket to hide your face or baby's face. Show baby how to pull the blanket off.
- **The Domino Effect:**
Clear off a clean surface so there are no other objects to distract baby. Set up rectangular blocks with just enough space between them for a domino effect. Show baby how to set off the chain reaction.
- **Baby's Stinky Feet:**
Put your nose close to baby's feet and make a face while saying "pee-you, stinky".
- **The Raspberry:**
Moisten your lips, press them lightly against baby's arm or belly and blow air out slowly.
- **I'm Gonna Get You:**
From about 10 feet away, move slowly toward baby, wiggling your fingers and saying, "I'm gonna get you". Hug or kiss baby once he/she is "caught".

Whenever you are playing with your baby, be sure to pay very close attention to how he/she is responding to what you are doing. If your baby is not responding or is fussing, crying, or looking away, he/she is telling you that you need to change what you are doing.

(From 97 Ways to Make Your Baby Laugh by Jack Moore, 1997)