



Northwest Connection

FAMILY RESOURCES

800-733-KIDS

15896 W 3rd Street, Hayward, WI 54843

715-634-2299

Ideas for Bringing Humor to the Classroom

Humor reflects our joy. And for children and adults alike, it's a wonderful way of reducing stress. Humor helps put things in perspective. Encouraging children to see the humor in life is one of the greatest gifts you can give them. You will be enriching their spirit as well as making learning fun. You and the children can enjoy these activities together.

1. **Make up silly rhymes.** The giggly results support phonological awareness, the ability to hear and distinguish the sounds of language. "I just finished a puzzle wuzzle." "At lunch I drank a glass of juice caboose."

2. **Try tongue twisters.** For example, lead children in saying the words to "A Haddock" as fast as they can. Trying to speed through a tongue twister can be contagiously funny.

A haddock!
A haddock!
A black-spotted haddock!
A black spot
On the black back
Of a black-spotted haddock!

3. **Replace key words in familiar songs.** Sing "Twinkle, twinkle, little car," and see what happens. Invite children to make up new lyrics to entertain you and their classmates.

4. **Be absurd.** Offer impossible answers to questions: "What time is lunch today?" "At 10 past the spaceship." The absurdity of the responses will tickle children.

5. **Model humor in the dramatic play area.** Wear a funny hat, put a shirt on backward, pretend to be a baby, or order a pizza with pickles and peaches on top. Children will enjoy your antics and want to try their own.

6. **Read aloud humorous children's books.** Books such as Rhyming Dust Bunnies, by Jan Thomas; Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus, by Mo Willems; or the pun-filled Mr. Putney's Quacking Dog, by Jon Agee, will have preschoolers rolling with laughter.

-continued on page 3

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Smile.amazon.com or Thrivent Choice Dollars, choose

Northwest Connection Family Resources



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 Northwest Connection Family Resources - Provider



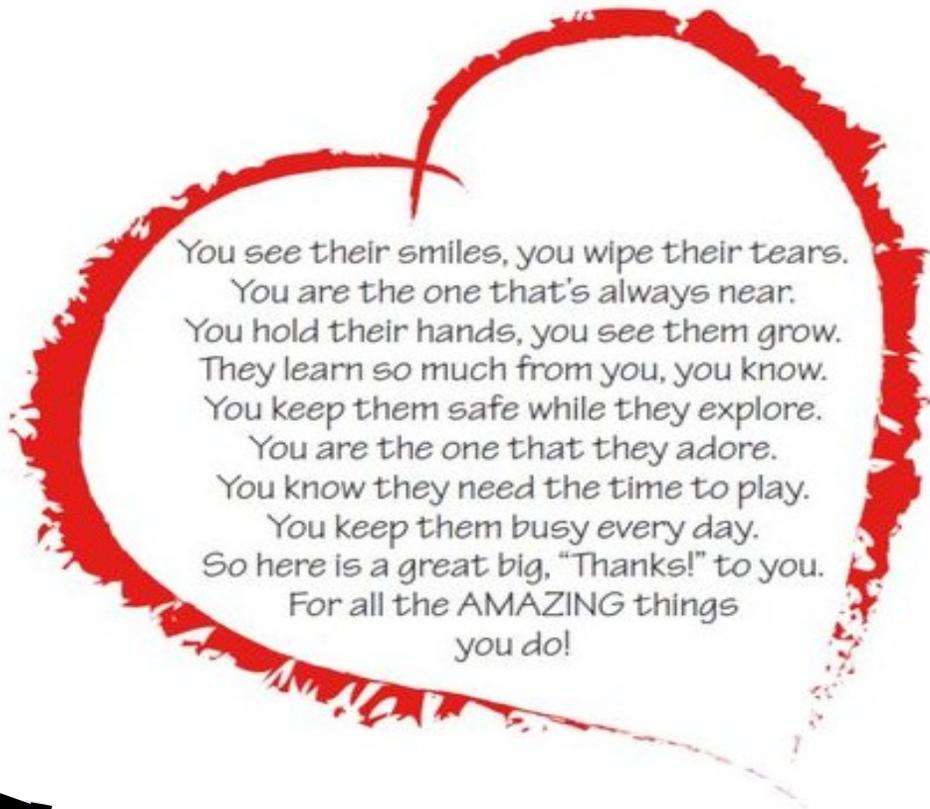
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Child Care Provider Appreciation Day

Friday, May 12th



Thanks for all you do!



TESTIMONIES

Here's what Family Child Care Providers & Center Directors are saying about their recent experiences with YoungStar Technical Consultants.

- My technical consultant helped with current changes and additions to make in our policy. – Barron County
- My technical consultant has helped my program grow and develop immensely in the years we have worked together. She is compassionate about the needs we have and is able to see our goals for the program. – Oneida County
- After working with our technical consultant we have better room arrangement and new equipment in our toddler room, we also have more in depth lesson plans from teachers. – Douglas County
- Working with my technical consultant these past few years, has helped me gain confidence in my own knowledge and expertise. Her encouragement and support is fantastic. – Douglas County

Ideas for Bringing Humor to the Classroom, continued from page 1

7. **Have a silly face contest.** Provide mirrors so children can see themselves. Encourage the children to describe their silly faces.
8. **Sing funny songs.** A tune such as "The Banana Song" makes children's names the center of the fun. For a child named Anna, it goes like this:

*Anna, Anna,
Bo Banna,
Banana fana fo fanna,
Fee, fi, mo manna,
Anna.*

9. **Fill a hula hoop with preschoolers.** Challenge children to stand inside one hula hoop, then lift the hoop up over their heads. How many preschoolers does it take to fill a hoop?
10. **Let children see you laughing . . . and remember to laugh at yourself.** Be a role model. When children see you laughing, they get the message that laughter is both appropriate and valued. The average preschooler laughs 400 times a day; the average adult only 15 times. It's time to start catching up – and set a positive humor example.

-This article was taken from the NAEYC website, <http://www.naeyc.org/tyc/article/bringing-humor-into-the-classroom>



This event recognizes those who work with and on behalf of youth during Out-of-School hours. The week is marked by celebrations encouraging people to thank the afterschool professionals who make a difference in the lives of young people.

Thanking your staff shows them you appreciate what they do for your program!

Some ideas to show your appreciation includes:

- Sharing with parents and kids about Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week via email or social media
- Treats or lunch for staff
- Awards for specific areas of strength of staff members (Best Communicator with Parents, STEM Star Award, Most Positive, etc.)
- Send a Press Release to your local media

-This information was taken from the National AfterSchool Association website, <http://naaweb.org/ideas>

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Family Engagement: Partnering with Families for Children's Success

This 3 hour course will explore best practices in family engagement, explore challenges and barriers to connecting with families and look at concrete strategies to improve your ability to develop relationships with families and increase their engagement. There is a \$15 fee for this training.

- ★ *Monday, April 3rd at the Siren Government Center, Room 162, from 6:00pm-9:00pm*
- ★ *Tuesday, May, 16th at the Phillips Normal Building from 6:00pm-9:00pm*



PLEASE CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO REGISTER FOR EACH TRAINING.

(715) 634-2299 OR (800) 733- KIDS

Help us plan for upcoming trainings!
Send suggestions for training topics to NCFR.
by calling (800) 733-KIDS

The capacity to learn is a *gift*; the ability to learn is a *skill*; the willingness to learn is a *choice*.

Brian Herbert

Worms, Germs, Mud & Crud

In this training you will build a better understanding of the rationale for hand-washing requirements. We will use assessment tools, licensing requirements and accreditation criteria to analyze when and how to wash hands and sanitize surfaces. There is a \$15 fee for this training.

- ★ *Tuesday, April 11th at the Superior Public Library from 6:00pm-8:00pm*
- ★ *Thursday, May 18th at CESA 12 from 6:00pm-8:00pm*

Bringing the Protective Factors to Life in Your Work!

As part of our mission to support families and healthy development of children, we are able to offer this 6 session training during which we will engage in a comprehensive discussion about the importance of bringing the Protective Factors to the forefront of the field of family support. You will leave with a renewed sense of purpose and enthusiasm for your work!

- ★ *At Northwest Connection Family Connection*
 - Tuesday, April 11th, 6:00pm-8:00pm*
 - Tuesday, April 18th, 6:00pm-8:00pm*
 - Tuesday, April 25th, 6:00pm-8:00pm*
 - Tuesday, May 2nd, 6:00pm-8:00pm*
 - Tuesday, May 9th, 6:00pm-8:00pm*
 - Tuesday, May 16th, 6:00pm-8:00pm*
- ★ *At Crandon Public Library*
 - Monday, May 1st, 6:00pm-8:00pm*
 - Monday, May 8th, 6:00pm-8:00pm*
 - Saturday, May 13th, 8:00am-12:00pm*
 - Saturday, May 20th, 8:00am-12:00pm*

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Discovering Science

This training will provide education for providers on how to incorporate science concepts into their programs. Science will be explored through hands on activities. There is a \$15 fee for this training.

- ★ *Thursday, April 13th at the Oneida County Law Enforcement Center from 6:00pm-9:00pm*
- ★ *Tuesday, April 18th at CESA 12 from 6:00pm-9:00pm*

Strengthening Families

This training explores the connection between factors that prevent child abuse and neglect and what quality early childhood programs do to build them. There is a \$15 fee for this training.

- ★ *Tuesday, April 18th at the Phillips Normal Building from 6:00pm-9:00pm*

Darkness to Light

This important training teaches adults how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. This important training is valuable for all adults, including parents, teachers, coaches, child care providers, educators, and adults working within youth serving organizations. There is a \$15 fee for this training.

- ★ *Thursday, April 20th at the Crandon Public Library from 6:00pm-9:00pm*
- ★ *Friday, April 12th at Faith Lutheran Church in Cameron from 9:00am-12:00pm*



Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care

This 2 hour training will focus on provider education on how to implement best practices and policies that support breastfeeding in early care and education environments. There is a \$15 fee for this training.

- ★ *Monday, May 8th at the Microtel Inn & Suites from 6:00pm-8:00pm*

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome & Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Training

These trainings will help you to discover the causes, effects and ways to help prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS). You will also learn about Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and how to help reduce risk. This is a wonderful training for providers, parents, and community members. There is a \$20 fee for this combined training.

Each month this training will be offered at NCFR in Sawyer County (see specific dates below)

- ★ *Thursday, May 18th from 6:00pm-9:00pm*
- ★ *Thursday, July 27th from 6:00pm-9:00pm*
- ★ *Thursday, September 28th from 6:00pm-9:00pm*
- ★ *Thursday, November 30th from 6:00pm-9:00pm*

Training Dates for SBS/SIDS being offered at Oneida County Law Enforcement Center in Rhinelander:

- ★ *Tuesday, May 23rd from 6:00pm-9:00pm*
- ★ *Tuesday, July 25th from 6:00pm-9:00pm*
- ★ *Tuesday, September 19th from 6:00pm-9:00pm*
- ★ *Tuesday, November 28th from 6:00pm-9:00pm*

Upcoming Conferences

Friday, May 5th, 2017

9:00am-4:00pm

Flat Creek Inn and Suites
10290 Hwy 27, Hayward, WI



“You Can’t Make Me!”
Power Struggles and Young Children
Daniel Hodgins

Working with children can sometimes be a puzzle. Are you experiencing everyday power struggles in your classroom? When is the last time you heard a child say to you “**You Can’t Make Me!**”. Did your hair stand up on the back of your neck? Did you get red in the face? Then this conference is for you. We will discuss why power struggles occur and how not to lose it when they happen. We will be looking at the differences between teacher controlled environments and child-controlled environments. You will leave with strategies to help children develop self-control. Don’t miss this training!

Saturday, May 6th, 2017

Eagle River Inn

5260 Hwy 70, Eagle River, WI



Supporting Children Who Take Us to the End of Our Rope
Daniel Hodgins
9:00am-12:00pm

Challenging behaviors of children are often the most common discussions that occur among adults working in early childhood settings. Are you an adult, working with children, who currently is involved with a child who **Takes You to the End of Your Rope**? If you are, this session is for you. You will increase your awareness of why challenging behaviors occur, learn some strategies that will assist in preventing these behaviors; and understand how to support the development of self-control in children.

Conversations about Your Child: Themes for a Lifetime

Mark Sweet

1:00pm-4:00pm

When adults look at babies, we lead with curiosity. We ask, *what does that sound mean and what does that gesture suggest?* When babies become children and teens, as parents, teachers and others, we often adopt a different kind of language. We lead with characterizations (*challenging, aggressive*), classifications (*low functioning, nonverbal*) or diagnoses (*ADD, autism*). Every child has a POV (point of view) about what is happening in her/his life all the time. What might happen if we had ways to share information about a child in school, in the family and in neighborhoods, that kept curiosity and interest in forming relationships at the center of our conversations?

For more information about these conferences, please contact Northwest Connection Family Resources at (800) 733-KIDS.

Week of the Young Child



IT'S ALL ABOUT BALANCE

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

April 24 - 28, 2017



Today, we know more than ever the importance of a child's earliest years in shaping their learning and development.

This year, as we celebrate the Week of the Young Child, we want to connect it in with our fall conference, October 14th "**It's All About Balance**". The conference will have many presentations that will help you think about the importance of balance in a child's life, as well as your own. The Week of the Young Child activities will have a great balance of fun projects, music, snacks, outdoor play, and will also include a parent/child activity to do at home.

It is becoming more evident how important balance is in a child's development. Balance can be improved with practice. We hope you will participate in all the activities and incorporate your own ideas during the week, to celebrate young children. Make sure you balance the day with active, music, art, manipulatives, outdoor, and quiet time.

If you would like more information about Week of the Young Child or did not receive the week's activities, please contact Northwest Connection Family Resources at (800) 733-KIDS.

SAY SOMETHING,
DO SOMETHING
FOR KIDS.

We believe that every child deserves to grow up in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment. Please join our campaign to "Say Something, Do Something for Kids," an initiative to help promote and strengthen child abuse prevention efforts in Wisconsin by wearing **BLUE** on April 5, 2017.

Post your **BLUE** picture on social media #SaySomethingDoSomething.





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FAMILY RESOURCES

15896 W 3rd Street
Hayward, WI 54843
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Fax#: (715) 634-8743

Email: nwchild@cheqnet.net
Website: www.wisconsinchild.org

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:00pm



Rice Lake



Northwoods

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Hayward WI
Permit #64

Silly Grass Heads

Supplies Needed:

Nylon Stockings
Grass Seeds
Potting Mix
Plastic Cup

Grass will take about a week to grow!

Once grass grows, let children practice cutting the grass with scissors.

Directions:

- Put 2-3 Tablespoons full of grass seed at the bottom of the nylon stocking.
- Add potting mix until you have enough to form a ball.
- Tie the end of the nylon stocking into a knot.
- Add water to your plastic cup.
- Place nylon ball in plastic cup, knotted side down.
- Add googly eyes, felt, yarn, etc. for decoration.

