

SMILE FOR AUNTIE

Smile for Auntie

by Diane Peterson (Dial)

Themes: Families/Humor

Grade Level: PreK-1

Running Time: 5 minutes, animated

Summary

Smile for Auntie is the story of a woman who will do just about anything to get a little baby to smile. She is willing to do a dance, make funny faces, bribe the baby with toys and ice cream, and even stand on her head! Auntie becomes frustrated when the baby simply will not smile. Finally, the little one does smile--when Auntie turns her back and walks away!

Objectives

- Children will explore relationships between family members
- Children will enjoy the humor found in the telling of a very frustrating tale
- Children will explore babyhood

Before Viewing Activities

Share the book Smile for Auntie with children.

Then ask: Why didn't the baby smile for Auntie? If you were Auntie, what would you have done to make the baby smile?

Talk with children about babies they may be familiar with. If children have not had an opportunity to interact with a baby recently, have them try to recall their own early years. Ask: What kinds of things do babies like to do? What kinds of care do babies need? What do you think is the best thing about babies?

Encourage children to describe things that make them laugh. Then have children take turns doing simple skits, telling jokes, or making funny faces in order to try and make their classmates laugh. Do you think the things that make you laugh now would have been the same things that made you laugh when you were a baby? Why? Why not?

After Viewing Activities

Have children dramatize the story of "Auntie." Supply props children can use, including a scarf, boots, and glasses for "Auntie" and a toy rattle for "baby." Have children take turns representing the two main characters in the story. Encourage children who take on the role of Auntie to improvise, and do what they think might make the baby laugh.

Ask children to describe relatives or friends that they particularly enjoy. Ask: What do you like most about this person? What kinds of things do you enjoy doing together? If you could tell this person how you feel about them, what

would you say? Supply sheets of white construction paper folded in half and crayons that children can use to create a note card for their "special someone." Print children's messages on the cards as they dictate them to you.

Discuss with the children how silly adults can sometimes be. Have children share their experiences with a silly adult with the class.

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