

Caring Clowns International



Clowning With Children

When working with kids, it is important to make them feel comfortable with you and your presence. Here are some tips:

- ♥ Normally, it is best to let a child approach you.
- ♥ Greet him/her with a smile ☺.
- ♥ Talk to that little nose picker calmly and in a playful tone. ☺.
- ♥ Ask simple, not prying questions to get them talking.
 - Do you have a pet? Tell me about it.
 - What is your favorite subject at school? What grade you are in?
 - What is your favorite thing to play on at the playground?
 - Notice what they are wearing...all purple or pink or black or a character
 - Is this your favorite color? Favorite character? (Mickey Mouse) Why?
- ♥ Move slowly, so as not to create any fear or hesitancy from the child because of too fast or abrupt movements on your part.
- ♥ Get down on his/her level, so you can chat eye to eye. (This will help keep the child at ease and comfortable with you.)
- ♥ If you sense a child you are approaching or playing with is scared or hesitant, back away slowly.
- ♥ When playing with wee little ones, ask the adult with the child if it is okay to approach him/her (Many times, the adult will help by introducing you to the child)
- ♥ When working with balloons, always caution the adult(s) with the child to not let the child put balloons in his/her mouth. Caution them that if the balloon was to pop, and the child inhaled a piece of balloon latex, it could be ingested into the lungs and cause suffocation.
- ♥ It is ill-advised to give balloon sculptures to very small babies and very little children. (They will instinctively try to put the balloons in their mouths.)
- ♥ As a general rule, be cautious about touching children. Each situation will vary. Some children will reach out to hug you. If so, let them embrace you. Be careful about if and how you hug back.
- ♥ One of our long time female clowns says she feels comfortable gently embracing a child and patting them on the back, if they reach for a hug. She will gently shake hands with most of the children she meets, generally in gloved hand. She also notes that children react differently to male clowns, and some of this may not be appropriate. Again, be sensitive to each situation and look to the adult with a child for cues on what to do and not do.