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Communicating with Children

Soft-skills in communicating with children: Humor

Humor can be seen as a path to establish a spontaneous, warm relationship with the patient, to decrease the anxiety and the feeling of social distance between the doctor and the patient.

The constructive, therapeutic humor can be defined as a message communicated empathically by the doctor in a humoristic manner. Using humor in the doctor-patient relationship can augment/strengthen the therapeutic relationship.

Several forms of manifesting the attitude towards humor and what it means 'to laugh with...':

- To desire a joyful disposition;
- To offer an attitude based on care and empathy;
- To build confidence;
- To be supportive;
- To ironize the general human weaknesses;
- To include others in 'general happiness'.



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