

# CREATE A JOY FILLED CHILDCARE CENTER!



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Are you a childcare director who is looking for strategies to help your center be a more joyful and happy place for your teachers and staff? Consider these tips:

- ☺ Let the sense of joy be authentic, natural, unscheduled — everyone can smell a phony attempt at ‘manufactured happiness.’
- ☺ Joy is an individual calling and responsibility; it is not up to a director or manager to create happy people, but modeling joy is a smart strategy.
- ☺ Faking happiness can drain and taint the joy we’re trying to encourage. \_\_ Resolve inner conflicts and workplace politics before proclaiming a happy center.
- ☺ Encourage professional development and growth for all, maintain a forward position in learning and skill building; support individuals who can benefit in professional advancement for other jobs internally or externally — these moves benefit the entire field.
- ☺ Celebrate joy in spontaneous occasions as well as the occasional pizza parties for staff, birthday surprises, and silly pajama days.
- ☺ Joy is at its best when staff are immediately recognized for their hard work and the value of their individual contributions is shared with all. \_\_ Don’t wait until April to tell someone they did a good job back in September.
- ☺ Adapt the attitude that joy and happiness are everywhere — let joy spill into what we do and all who we encounter. Be infectious!

\* These tips are compiled from an article in the 2016 November/December edition of [childcareexchange](#) titled: *Fostering Professional Happiness*

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