

# Lesson 86

**Purpose:** To introduce the positive action of having a good outlook and good sense of humor.

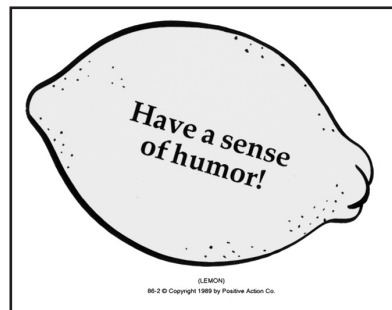
**Materials Needed** Tape or tacks

**Materials Provided** “Lemon” Visual Aid 86-4-2; “Friendship Tree” Poster 78A-4-2

## Procedure

**Say** Having a good sense of humor and a sunny outlook each day is a positive action that will make us all feel better. Everyone makes mistakes and accidents happen. If we can learn to use the positive action of seeing the bright side and using our sense of humor in those situations, then we will get along better with others. That’s what this “Fruit of Friendship” lemon reminds us. It says “Have a sense of humor!”

**Teacher** Affix the “Lemon” Visual Aid 86-4-2 to the tree on the “Friendship Tree” Poster 78A-4-2.



*Read the following story, and then elicit discussion with the questions that follow.*

## IT'S NOT THAT FUNNY

When Sammy tripped on absolutely nothing in the middle of the floor, spilled a full glass of milk, and sent the cat yowling into the kitchen, everybody laughed.

“It’s not that funny,” said Sammy, even though he hadn’t hurt himself. He stomped out of the room.

When Miss Falani asked her second-graders how many eggs in a dozen and Sammy answered incorrectly, everybody laughed.

“It’s not that funny,” said Sammy and put his head down on his desk.

When Mrs. Ordway, the music teacher, signaled for the class to stop singing and Sammy didn’t, everybody laughed.

“It’s not that funny,” said Sammy and slammed his music book shut.

“Sammy has a problem,” Mrs. Ordway told Miss Falani. “He takes everything too seriously,” she said.

“Sammy lets little things bother him,” Miss Falani told his mother. Sammy’s mother said she quite agreed.

“Sammy sees only the grumpy side of things,” Sammy’s mother told his father. “His feelings are hurt too easily.”

His father said, “I know.”

“Well?” said his mother.

“Well, what?” asked his father.

“Well, what are we going to do about it?”

One evening, when Sammy was playing at a friend’s house, his family had a meeting. His mother and father, his brother, Alex, and his sister, Judy, all sat around the kitchen table. Even the cat was there, perched on Sammy’s empty chair. The topic of discussion was: What Should We Do About Sammy’s Sense of Humor? For a long time, no one spoke. Then, just before Sammy was to come home, someone said, “I have an idea!” Then they buzzed and talked and planned until Sammy walked through the back door.

The next morning at breakfast, when his mother poured syrup in her coffee instead of cream, everybody laughed, including Sammy.

“It’s not that funny,” said his mother and stomped back to her bedroom.

“What’s wrong with her?” asked Sammy.

When someone noticed Alex had on one blue sock and one green sock, everybody laughed, including Sammy.

“It’s not that funny,” Alex said and threw his napkin in the cereal.

“Ooh, what a grouch!” Sammy said. He was beginning to see what it was like to be around others when they didn’t use their sense of humor.

When Judy put the bread in the freezer and the ice cream in the bread box, everybody laughed, including Sammy.

“It’s not that funny,” Judy said, and slammed the freezer door.

And Sammy said, “It’s not that big of a deal. Lighten up!”

Soon Sammy figured out that we all make little mistakes, and when he didn’t take himself so seriously, it made him feel better. So, when he took the phone book to school by mistake and left his reading book at home, he laughed hard.

And when he pulled a stack of newspapers on top of himself (because he wanted just the bottom one), and then lost his balance because the papers were falling, which made him put one foot in the cat’s empty food dish, which made him tumble head first over the cushiony arm of the couch, Sammy laughed really hard.

Sammy laughed and laughed and laughed until his sides hurt and he was out of breath. Then he laughed some more. Pretty soon, the whole family was laughing. As far as everyone knows, they haven’t stopped. And Sammy never said “It’s not that funny” again.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What was Sammy’s problem in the beginning of the story? (*He took things too seriously.*)
- Who helped Sammy to overcome this problem? (*His family.*)

- What did Sammy learn from what his family did? (*That it's best not to let the small things upset you because that makes you feel bad about yourself.*)
- What important positive action did Sammy learn? (*To have a positive outlook and to laugh at the little things; everyone makes little mistakes.*)

**Say** Each of us needs to practice the positive action of having a positive outlook on life and having a good sense of humor. It will help us to get along with others, be achievers, and find happiness and success. When we choose positive actions, we feel good about ourselves.