



Funny Eddie Lecture Notes

01/05/2025

1. A good Family entertainer relates to kids and the grown-ups at the same time. You aren't just entertaining the Kids. Make sure to entertain the grown-ups too. Keep things topical and current for both.

- Be mindful of political or religious material. Family entertainment is generally not conflict comedy.
- For kids, you are a stranger. Share/Make Magical memories, things they will take into adulthood. Don't be a kid's bully. They are the hero here.
- Be current on the socials... Instagram, Tik Tok?, YouTube, Blue Sky.... that is their social circle.
- Include the grown-up references too!!

Example with props: Ring and Spring

2. You have to like kids. The audience isn't your enemy.

- Take a knee to get to their level. (Eye to eye) Learned that at RBBB.
- Play with kids. Don't perform at them. (Look, don't see.)
- Embrace The Chaos. It's like herding cats or dealing with drunken hecklers.
- Always have multiple outs.
- Kid proof your props. (Kids are unpredictable.)

3. Choosing Volunteers

- No means no. If the birthday kid says no, consent is important. Ask them to choose a friend. They can give a gift that way. Don't let a parent push you to be a bully.
- Be aware of kids that are too eager.
- If you choose a spectator and halfway through they decide not to continue with the trick, just go with the flow. You are a pro. You can do this. (multiple outs)

4. Magic that kids can relate to. My act breakdown.

- Have a strong opening bit so that they know that you are there to entertain them and make them feel comfortable.

BUBBLE BEAR is my opening. Kids love bubbles and relate immediately. Grown-ups smile at the joy and memories. Find your strong opening.

Example with props: Bubble Wands and Marbles

- Run Wolf Run & Balloon Bag: Repetition, Surprise, Making kids feel smart. Younger kids crave repetition and accomplishment. They helped me find the wolf.
- Sponge Star magic: It happens in their hands. Tactile and fun for kids. And we all know grown-ups love it too.
- 10 count, 2 in the Hand 1 in the pocket. Reinforces counting and a classic false transfer and basic magic sleights.
- Ketchup/Jellybean trick. Breaks the rules of reality. Wolf's Magic makes a jelly bean can called Snakey Fakey, it's the best out there.
- Funny Word: Mine's Ya Koska! Find your funny magic word.

5. Same tricks for different ages.

- Elementary: Fun. Silly. Repetition. Make it easy for them. Ask them questions that they already know the answers to. Parents are watching kids have fun.
- Middle/High School: Skeptical. Too Cool for magic. They have more life experience. Magic can be more sophisticated; they follow the concepts of magic and understand rules. But keep it silly and fun. They aren't really adults yet.
- Grown-ups: Keep them involved not because they paid, but because they want their kids and guests to have a good time. Generational comedy is great. Play pop culture to all generations.

6. Social expectation with children. Respect your audience.

- Don't hug kids. ONLY if they start/initiate the hug.
- If you do, side hug with both hands up. Take a knee if you have to.
- Photos, both hands up. First thing that I learned at RBBB Circus. Hands are always visible.

7. Kids are always the Hero.

- Never end a trick with the kid looking bad. Never end a trick with the kid looking bad. Never end a trick with the kid looking bad.

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- Eye contact with everyone. Grown-ups included. Always acknowledge. Constantly scan the audience.
 - Use as many kids as you can in the show. Group interaction.
 - Use your magic word for the whole show. Repeat, Repeat, Repeat.

8. Disruptions

- Kids want attention. Good or Bad. It doesn't matter. Guide them.
- Situation dictates. No two kids are alike.

Ex: "I know how you did that." Reply: "So do I! Let's keep it a secret!" Or "No Spoilers!"

9. Neurodivergent Kids and Special Needs

- Not all kids are at the same place in their life journey and development.
- Take your time.
- Slow down so that they can follow if needed.
- Impulse control is not heckling.
- If it doesn't work out, it's okay. Reinforce it's okay.
- Be prepared. Always ask your client "Do any of your guests have needs that I should be aware of?" (non-verbal, latex allergy, sight, hearing...)

Great resource for being inclusive in words and language.

<https://www.ungeneva.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/Disability-Inclusive-Language-Guidelines.pdf>

10. Basic Performance stuff you know.

- Breath mints, deodorant, clean nails and less cologne and perfume.
- Use the bathroom before getting to a gig when possible. If at an event, always use a stall with the door locked. Ensure all zippers are up before hitting the stage and/or that your dress isn't stuck in your pantyhose.
- Be Aware of your sight lines from the back and sides of the room. Ensure that everyone can hear you and see you. Like Jack Goldfinger says, use a mic if it's available.
- If you aren't comfortable doing a family show then pass it on to someone who is. It's ok to say no to clients and help them find the best fit for them.
- Never ask a knock knock joke. (my personal experience)

11. Find you • Be you • Don't be afraid to be you

- Don't steal someone's act. If you see something that inspires you, build on it. Create your unique best self. It makes it harder to copy.

12. My Sparks of Joy & Inspiration

- Mario "the Maker Magician" Marchese - Follow him on instagram!
<https://www.mariothemagician.com>
- Silly Scott - A UK Magician who makes this prop.
"Guess What's Inside My Sandwich?!"
<http://sillyscottmagic.wixsite.com/shop/guess-what-s-inside-my-sandwich>
- Silly Billy aka David Kaye - His book is in Our Library. Great Props.
<https://sillymagic.com>
- Danny Orleans and Jan Rose
Corporate and Family Entertainers (They do BOTH!) Great Props and DVD's
<https://www.vanishingincmagic.com/amazekids>
- Chance Wolf, "Wolfs Magic" - Amazing Bullet Proof Magic Props
Most of my props are from him. Great quality. Jelly bean Snakey Fakey can. Run Wolf Run.
<http://wolfsmagic.com>
- Jeff McBride - An amazing performer and educator.
<https://mcbridemagic.com>
- My Magic Case
The world's most popular table for professional magicians, clowns, and variety entertainers used by nearly 10,000 performers around the world.
<https://www.showtimemagic.com>
- ENERGY STICK - A cool family/large group prop
<https://www.stevespanglerscience.com/store/energy-stick.html>
- Mac King's Magic in a Minute Great Big Ol' Book-O-Magic (In the library)

- Support your local Brick and Mortar;

Magic Apple 11390 Ventura Blvd. (2nd Floor) Studio City, CA 91604

Telephone: 818-508-9921

Thrift store finds. Make it and create it to be you.



Keep finding your joy, inspiration, & spark. See other performers and never stop learning.

About Eddie Medrano:

Eddie is a former US Marine, and a former Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey circus clown. He is the Magic Director of California's premier summer camp (11 years), and is the resident Santa at Underwood Family Farms for the past 3 years. Eddie is a 16 year magician member of the AMA and has performed in the Parlour, Palace, Peller, Close-up Room, and has had many beverages at the Library Bar.

"You look like a Magician." - Johnny Thompson

"You are better than Good!" - Stan Winston's Grandson

"Great to hear from you. Still laughing at the mustache gag." - Harry The Hat

"Are these your pop-tarts?" - Hannibal

"Is there a dog in here?" - Everybody

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Notes & Doodles

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